PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

SECOND SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-SIXTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2006–2007

COMPRISING PERIOD
22 October—30 October 2007

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22 October 2007

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 22 October 2007

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Written Questions

Norman Baker: To ask the Leader of the House whether she plans to facilitate the accountability of regional Ministers through written parliamentary questions. [157772]

Helen Goodman: The accountability of regional Ministers is one of the issues which it will be open to the Select Committee on the Modernisation of the House of Commons to consider as part of the inquiry it has announced that it intends to undertake into regional accountability.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Legal Opinion: Armed Conflict

Mr. Allen: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission, if he will take steps to make independent legal advice available to the House and to hon. Members on the legality of *(a)* war-making and *(b)* voting on war-making. [159323]

Nick Harvey: The Commission has no plans to do so. Individual Members are free to draw on any advice they receive. Select Committees may choose to take evidence and report to the House.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departments: Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people were employed by his Department on 1 January in each of the last five years; and how many of these staff were *(a)* permanent employees, *(b)* temporary staff and *(c)* contractors. [158321]

Paul Goggins: The following table details the number of *(a)* permanent and *(b)* temporary staff employed within the Northern Ireland Office on the 1 January in each of the last five years. The Northern Ireland Office has no contractors on the payroll.

	Total employed	*Permanent staff*	*Temporary staff*
2003	1,712	1,667	45
2004	1,795	1,774	21
2005	1,899	1,870	29
2006	1,973	1,921	52
2007	2,074	2,047	27

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what percentage of employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by his Department, are above state retirement age. [158942]

Paul Goggins: The following table details the number of employees and the percentage this represents in *(a)* the Northern Ireland Office and *(b)* each (i) executive agency who are above state retirement age. Information in relation to (ii) non-departmental public bodies is not available.

Business area	*Number of employees aged over 60*	*Total number of employees*	*Percentage*
NIO CORE	18	676	2.7
Forensic Science NI	4	176	2
Compensation Agency	0	77	0
Youth Justice Agency	1	72	1
Public Prosecution Service	6	558	1
Crown Solicitors Office	2	81	2
NI Prison Service	24	441	5
Staff on Secondment	0	35	0
Total	55	2,188	2.5

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by his Department on official hospitality in the last 12 months. [158899]

Paul Goggins: The following table shows the amount spent on hospitality by the Northern Ireland Office (NIO), excluding its agencies and executive NDPBs, in the last 12 months.

The figures include hospitality paid for by the NIO, on behalf of other customers. The NIO recoups these amounts. The table illustrates how the recoupment offsets the expenditure.

	September 2006 to August 2007 (£)
Expenditure incurred on hospitality by the NIO	453,787
Amount recouped from customers	119,973
Actual amount spent on NIO hospitality	333,814

These figures are based on provisional outturn and are therefore subject to change.

Expenditure incurred on hospitality by the NIO includes accommodation and hospitality for members of the royal family, visiting dignitaries and Heads of State, and also hospitality for the representatives of business, voluntary and community sectors in Northern Ireland attending the annual garden party at Hillsborough Castle.

Departments: Policy

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what policy changes his Department has implemented since 27 June 2007. [159293]

Mr. Woodward: The key objective of my Department remains to build a lasting peace in Northern Ireland based on the Belfast Agreement and St. Andrews Agreement, in which the rights and identities of all traditions are fully respected and safeguarded and in which a safe, stable, just, open and tolerant society can thrive and prosper. This has not changed since 27 June.

Departments: Road Traffic Offences

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many fixed penalty tickets were incurred by vehicles within the purview of his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the total cost was. [157879]

Paul Goggins: Only one fixed penalty ticket has been incurred and the fine of £60 was paid by the driver.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan

10. **Jeff Ennis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of overall force protection in Afghanistan. [159403]

Des Browne: We keep the threat to UK forces in Afghanistan and the requirements for force protection under constant review.

21. **Mrs. Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on progress made by the armed forces in Helmand province over the last three months. [159414]

Des Browne: The UK armed forces in Helmand continue to defeat the Taliban tactically while supporting FCO and DfID programmes to improve governance and provide reconstruction. They continue to provide mentoring and assist in the development of the Afghan security forces as part of our long-term goal to ensure the Afghans can take responsibility for their own security.

RAF Boulmer

11. **Mr. Beith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future of RAF Boulmer. [159404]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: At RAF Boulmer there are Air Surveillance and Control Systems units and a Search and Rescue Flight. Work is ongoing into the future location of AS AC units, including those at RAF Boulmer. I will announce the outcome of this work in due course.

The Private Finance Initiative competition for future UK Search and Rescue Helicopter capability is ongoing and a decision on future Search and Rescue basing has yet to be made.

Drug Seizures

12. **Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the volume and value has been of drugs seized by British naval vessels involved in drug operations in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [159405]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Royal Navy has seized just over 1 tonne of illegal narcotics during 2007, with an estimated UK street value of £49 million. The Royal Navy's presence in the Caribbean and elsewhere provides an important contribution to UK counter-narcotics activity under the leadership of the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

Armed Forces Accommodation

14. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on recent initiatives to improve shared and single accommodation for armed forces personnel and their families. [159407]

Derek Twigg: We anticipate spending some £870 million on living and other accommodation this financial year with over £5 billion being spent over the next 10 years.

Some 60 per cent. of service homes in Great Britain are now at the highest standard for condition. For Single Living Accommodation significant progress has been made since 2001, and some 50,000 new or improved bedspaces will have been achieved by 2013.

Armed Forces Training

15. **Chris Bryant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the armed forces of other countries are training at British training facilities alongside British troops. [159408]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As at 17 October 2007 there were 1,030 foreign armed forces personnel training alongside British troops at facilities in the United Kingdom.

Blackwater USA

17. **Harry Cohen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with his US and Iraqi counterparts on private military company, Blackwater USA. [159410]

Des Browne: None.

Iraq

18. **Mr. Gauke:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on future troop levels in Iraq. [159411]

Des Browne: I have nothing to add to the statement my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister made on 8 October 2007.

22. **Lynne Featherstone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Iraqis the armed forces have employed since 2003; and if he will make a statement. [159415]

Des Browne: We estimate that around 20,000 Iraqis have been employed by UK armed forces in Iraq since 2003. Work continues to establish how many of these might be eligible for the package of support announced by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 8 October.

Armed Forces: Food Supplies

19. **Mr. Spellar:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of *(a)* beef, *(b)* lamb and *(c)* pork supplied to the armed forces is sourced from British farms. [159412]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Under the MOD's Food Supply Contract, which commenced on 1 October 2006, approximately 55 per cent. of beef, 13 per cent. of lamb and mutton and 100 per cent. of pork supplied to the armed forces is sourced from British farms.

Special Forces Housing Helpline

20. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many calls have been made to his Department's special forces housing helpline in the last 12 months. [159413]

Derek Twigg: Between October 2006 and September this year, 411,973 calls were made to the Modern Housing Solutions Helpdesk.

Veterans Badges

23. **Mr. Neil Turner:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many veterans badges have been issued. [159416]

Derek Twigg: I was delighted recently to award the 500,000th badge to Sonia Harford on board HMS Belfast. In total, up to 12 October this year, over 518,500 veterans badges have been issued since the badge was introduced in 2004.

Weapons Exports

24. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with colleagues in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on UK Trade and Investment's role in providing export services for UK weapons manufacturers; and if he will make a statement. [159417]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Defence Ministers have had regular discussions with colleagues in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform about export services for UK defence manufacturers. Officials from both Departments are also in close contact to ensure that the change of responsibility, announced by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, on 25 July is implemented effectively.

Joint Personnel Administration System

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the operation of the joint personnel administration system; when he expects it to be fully operational; and if he will make a statement. [159409]

Derek Twigg: The Joint Personnel Administration system has been successfully rolled out as planned to all three services and is now fully operational. It provides a stable, modern platform to support our services and a recent independent review by the Office of Government Commerce stated that while there was much to do to deliver the full vision and benefit potential, its implementation represented a significant achievement.

Amphibious Vehicles: Devonport

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what consideration his Department has given to basing the four Bay class landing ship dock (auxiliaries) alongside the Royal Navy's other amphibious vessels at Devonport; [159043]

(2) what consideration his Department has given to the merits of basing the Antarctic survey ship HMS Endurance with the remainder of the hydrographic surveying squadron at Devonport. [159044]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 18 October 2007]:* The Naval Base Review concluded that all three naval bases (Clyde, Devonport and Portsmouth) should be retained but optimised. The process of exploring the options for optimising the way the three naval bases individually and collectively provide support to the front line is under way. This work includes an assessment of the impact on the base porting of ships and submarines, and is expected to conclude in the coming months, with the aim of delivering the most effective support to the front line in the future.

Armed Forces: Discharges

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what main reasons are cited by service personnel for leaving the armed forces. [155794]

Derek Twigg: The main reasons that service personnel give for leaving the armed forces are: the impact of service life on their personal and domestic lives; a lack of job satisfaction; and a change of career or future job opportunities outside the services.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy to contribute his Department's funds towards the *(a)* capital cost and

(b) revenue expenditure of civilian hospitals and other civilian health service facilities and services provided by the national health service and used extensively by members of HM armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [157805]

Derek Twigg: In England, the Department of Health provides funding to primary care trusts (PCTs) to meet their responsibilities. Revenue allocations are made to PCTs on the basis of the relative needs of their populations, to enable them to commission similar levels of health services for populations in similar need. With regard to the armed forces, service personnel are included in the secondary care elements of PCT revenue allocations and excluded from the primary care elements, as the latter services are provided by the Defence Medical Services.

Funding allocations to particular NHS trusts are based on information from the Office for National Statistics, which is used to determine the demographic (and hence health care) needs of each area. The devolved Administrations of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have similar arrangements for the allocation of funds for health care from their overall budgets.

The MOD pays the NHS for accelerated access to treatment for its personnel when this is required for operational reasons, under agreements between the MOD and individual NHS trusts. MOD also has specific arrangements with those NHS trusts that host Ministry of Defence Hospital Units, where military doctors and nurses work alongside NHS colleagues to gain clinical training and experience (to enable them to deliver a high standard of medical care on military deployments). The NHS as well as the MOD benefits from these placements, the costs of which are recovered by the MOD in respect of the work undertaken for the NHS that is contractually guaranteed to the trust concerned. Where the MOD requires any special facilities to be provided by an NHS trust for specifically military purposes, whether for military medical training and administration or for the care of military patients, the costs of such provision will again be recovered by the NHS trust concerned.

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how the extra planned funding for Combat Stress will be provided. [157033]

Derek Twigg: The extra funding takes the form of increased daily fee rates paid in respect of individual qualifying war pensioners who receive treatment at one of the Combat Stress homes. These payments are made using the power in the war pensions scheme[1] to pay expenses in respect of the medical, surgical or rehabilitative treatment of a former member of the armed forces that are the result of disablement due to service before 6 April 2005. In Scotland, costs are met by the Scottish Health Service.

[1]Article 21 of The Naval, Military and Air Forces Etc. (Disablement and Death) Service Pensions Order 2006

Ballistic Missile Defence

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the United States Administration on options for United Kingdom involvement in the US National Missile Defense Programme; and whether the British Ambassador to the United States has played any part in such negotiations. [159512]

Des Browne *[holding answer 19 October 2007]:* The Ministry of Defence continues to discuss ballistic missile defence issues with the US Administration, on a number of levels. It is not the practice of the Government to make public the details of all discussions with foreign governments as this would, or would be likely to, prejudice international relations.

Bombs

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the self-destruct failure rate of the M85 dual purpose bomblet. [158804]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: All munitions undergo rigorous and comprehensive testing prior to entering service and are subject to regular in-service trials once they become part of the UK stockpile. I refer my hon. Friend to the answer my predecessor gave on 20 April 2007, *Official Report,* column 800W, to my right hon. Friend the Member for Oxford, East (Mr. Smith).

Defence: Surveys

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library the results of his Department's most recent public attitude survey. [157045]

Derek Twigg: I have placed a copy of the latest complete survey in the Library of the House, and will ensure that the results of subsequent surveys are placed there as they arise.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which private consultancy firms *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies which report to his Department engaged in each of the last three years; which programmes or projects each firm worked on; and what the approximate cost to the Department or agency concerned was of each engagement. [155870]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held in the format requested centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, I am able to provide the MOD's expenditure on private consultancy companies for the last two financial years and I have made these available in the Library of the House. The expenditure figures for financial year 2005-06 do not include expenditure on manpower substitution and the figures for financial year 2006-07 exclude both manpower substitution and technical consultancy.

Details of the MOD's expenditure on external assistance since 1995-96 are available in the Library of the House.

Information on organisations, including consultancy firms, paid £5 million or more by the Department in each financial year is published in the UK Defence Statistics. Copies of this are also available in the House Library.

Departments: Fees and Charges

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the spectrum charge paid by his Department in near cash terms was in each year from 1999-2000 to 2007-08; and what estimate he has made of the amount of the charge in each year from 2008-09 to 2010-11. [158392]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Spectrum charges paid by the Ministry of Defence between financial years 1999 and 2000 and 2007 and 2008 are set out in the following table. The trend in fees reflects a number of factors, including the introduction of spectrum pricing and the implementation of the independent audit of spectrum holdings (the Cave review).

	Price paid (£ million)
1999-2000	12.408
2000-01	22.732
2001-02	22.625
2002-03	23.740
2003-04	24.292
2004-05	24.292
2005-06	55.398
2006-07	49.518
2007-09	49.518

Note:
Figures rounded to the nearest 1000

Following the comprehensive spending review 2007, the MOD has entered into discussions with Ofcom over future spectrum fees. It would be inappropriate to release further information at this early stage of these discussions.

Departments: Foot and Mouth Disease

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what representations his Department has received from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Ministers or officials on public access and countryside activities on his Department's land in *(a)* foot and mouth disease risk areas and *(b)* foot and mouth disease low risk areas; [157072]

(2) what restrictions he has placed on public access and leisure activities on his Department's land in foot and mouth disease low risk areas. [157073]

Derek Twigg: During the initial outbreaks we had daily contact with DEFRA to clarify public access arrangements and countryside activities in high risk areas.

The Ministry of Defence has acted in accordance with the regulations published by DEFRA.

Departments: Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people were employed by his Department on 1st January in each of the last five years; and how many of these staff were *(a)* permanent employees, *(b)* temporary staff and *(c)* contractors. [158322]

Derek Twigg: Information on how many civilian staff were employed by the Department on 1 January 2003 to 2007, broken down by permanent employees and temporary staff, is shown in the following table.

	Permanent	*Temporary*	*Headcount Total*
1 January 2003			
Level 1[1] Excluding RFA	79,340	1,520	80,860
Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA)	n/a	n/a	2,450
Level 1[1]	n/a	n/a	83,300
Locally engaged civilians (LECs)	n/a	n/a	14,020
Trading fund personnel	12,180	130	12,310
Level 0[2]	n/a	n/a	109,630
1 January 2004			
Level 1[1] Excluding RFA	80,140	340	80,480
Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA)	n/a	n/a	2,340
Level 1[1]	n/a	n/a	82,820
Locally engaged civilians (LECs)	n/a	n/a	14,760
Trading fund personnel	11,490	190	11,680
Level 0[2]	n/a	n/a	109,260
1 January 2005			
Level 1[1] Excluding RFA	80,470	1,260	81,730
Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA)	n/a	n/a	2,340
Level 1[1]	n/a	n/a	84,070
Locally engaged civilians (LECs)	n/a	n/a	15,130
Trading fund personnel	11,240	90	11,330
Level 0[2]	n/a	n/a	110,530
1 January 2006			
Level 1[1] Excluding RFA	77,490	1,180	78,680
Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA)	n/a	n/a	2,350
Level 1[1]	n/a	n/a	81,030
Locally engaged civilians (LECs)	n/a	n/a	16,150
Trading fund personnel	10,970	150	11,120
Level 0[2]	n/a	n/a	108,300

	Permanent	Temporary	Headcount Total
1 January 2007			
Level 1[1] Excluding RFA	73,780	1,060	74,850
Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA)	n/a	n/a	2,370
Level 1[1]	n/a	n/a	77,210
Locally engaged civilians (LECs)	n/a	n/a	15,280
Trading fund personnel	10,390	160	10,550
Level 0[2]	n/a	n/a	103,040

n/a = not available as data for RFAs and LECs cannot be split by permanent employees and temporary staff subsets.

[1] Level 1 is defined as all departmental staff including RFAs but excluding LECs and trading fund personnel

[2] Level 0 is defined as all departmental staff at Level 1 plus LECs and trading fund personnel.

Note:

Information on contractors is not held centrally on the Department's Human Resource Management System (HRMS).

Source:

DASA(Quad Service)

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by his Department on official hospitality in the last 12 months. [158933]

Derek Twigg: We routinely publish this information in our Annual Report and Accounts (see page 244 of HC 697 of 23 July 2007 for 2006-07 expenditure). Copies are available in the Library of the House and also online at:

http://www.mod.uk/NR/rdonlyres/8A6AC2D1-3CA3-4C12-82F8-5AD8C1800FFA/0/accounts.pdf

Departments: Publications

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the latest version of *(a)* his Department's Corporate Planning Assumptions, *(b)* the Defence Programme Directory and *(c)* the Defence Strategic Guidance. [158390]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The key elements of the Defence Planning Assumptions can be found in the second Supporting Essay to the 2003 Defence White Paper, 'Delivering Security in a Changing World' (Cm 6041-I) and the annex to 'Delivering Security in a Changing World—Future Capabilities' (Cm 6269) published in July 2004. Since these papers were published, only minor amendments have been made to the assumptions on Strategic Effects.

The planned force structure derived from the Defence Programme Directory can also be found in the 2004 Command Paper 'Delivering Security in a Changing World—Future Capabilities' (Cm 6269). Since this paper was published there have been no changes to the planned force structure although there have been minor changes to some platform numbers. The complete Defence Programme Directory contains readiness profiles which are classified and for security reasons cannot be placed in the Library.

Defence Strategic Guidance provides guidance to the Department on how Defence policy should be delivered and includes the complete set of defence planning assumptions. I am withholding the guidance as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the defence of the British Isles and the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the 140 Mastiff vehicles whose purchase was announced by the Prime Minister on 8 October 2007 will be *(a)* delivered and *(b)* in use by frontline troops in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan. [157155]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 11 October 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Congleton (Ann Winterton) during the Defence Procurement debate on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 202.

Iraq: Resettlement

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take to assist in the identification of Iraqis who have worked for the British Army in relation to investigation of asylum applications based on the implications of such work. [158784]

Des Browne: The Ministry of Defence will provide the Home Office with details of those eligible current and former staff who have applied for resettlement or asylum under those terms announced by the Foreign Secretary on 9 October.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidance he has issued to the armed forces on terms in contracts for Iraqi workers relating to entitlements to assistance in resettling in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* elsewhere. [158798]

Des Browne *[holding answer 17 October 2007]:* The precise details of the scheme are still being refined and will be announced in due course. Specific guidance to staff on implementation will be promulgated shortly thereafter.

Military Aid: Belize

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost has been of the assistance provided by the British Army Training and Support Unit to the manatee conservation project in Belize; and what type of helicopter was used by the Army Air Corps to assist the project. [158385]

Derek Twigg: On 26 and 28 March 2007 the British Army Training Support Unit Belize provided assistance to the Wildlife Trust's manatee conservation project, in locating, examining and tagging manatees. Two helicopters were involved, a hired Bell 212 operated by 25 Flight Army Air Corps and a RAF Puma. The extra cost of this activity to the Ministry of Defence was £1,765, covering the hire of the Bell 212 for approximately two and a half hours. All armed forces personnel and equipment involved were already in Belize for training purposes.

Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme visits were *(a)* cancelled and *(b)* reduced in size in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan in each year since 2001, broken down by reason. [157038]

Derek Twigg: Neither the Ministry of Defence nor the Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme keep detailed historical records of the details of cancelled Armed Forces Parliamentary Scheme visits to Operational Theatres.

Radioactive Materials

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what definition his Department uses of *(a)* special nuclear materials and *(b)* other radioactive materials. [157797]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Applied generally within the MOD, the term "special nuclear material" refers to materials associated with nuclear programmes and for which there is a requirement for special handling arrangements.

"Other radioactive materials" include any substance not included in the above, containing one or more radionuclides, whose activity requires radiation protection.

Royal Regiment of Scotland

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* people and *(b)* non-UK Commonwealth citizens have been recruited to the Royal Regiment of Scotland in each year since its creation. [158701]

Derek Twigg: The information is as follows:

Number of recruits to the Royal Regiment of Scotland between 1 April 2006 and 28 February 2007

	The Royal Regiment of Scotland
Total recruitment	
Officer	25
Soldier	405
Of which: non-UK Commonwealth	
Officer	[1]—
Soldier	10

[1] Denotes a value that is zero

Notes:

1. Figures are shown for the 11 months to the 28 February 2007, as reliable Army flows information to this level of detail are not yet available after 28 February 2007 onwards due to ongoing validation of Army data following the introduction of the new Personnel Administration System.
2. The numbers have been rounded to the nearest five.

The figures in the table are Trained Regular Officers and Soldiers only and exclude full-time Reserve Service (FTRS), Gurkhas and Royal Irish (Home Service).

Shipping: Accidents

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will audit records of the number of collisions between commercial vessels and *(a)* Royal Navy warships and *(b)* Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels in Portsmouth harbour in each of the last 10 years. [159046]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 18 October 2007]:* There is no requirement to undertake an audit of the number of collisions, as all navigation incidents that occur worldwide involving HM warships are reported in accordance with the Queen's Regulations for the Royal Navy. Records show that there has been one collision incident involving a commercial vessel and a Royal Navy warship in the port of Portsmouth during the last 10 years, while there have been no recorded incidents involving commercial and Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels.

Territorial Army: Armed Forces Training

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Combat Fitness Test is undertaken at the start of the Potential Junior NCOs course for Territorial Army personnel. [159180]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The combat fitness test (CFT) forms part of the mandatory military annual training test (MATT) for all members of the Army, including the Territorial Army. Active serving members of the Territorial Army are normally required to take this test annually in order to qualify for their training bounty, unless undertaking a staff posting.

There is no centrally mandated requirement for members of the TA to pass the CFT at the start of Potential Junior NCO courses, the syllabuses for which are tailored by each of the Corps to meet their individual needs. In practice, however, it is usual either for the CFT to be included at some point during such a course or for participants to demonstrate the required MATT standard before the course begins.

Territorial Army: Driving

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what regulations cover the driving hours per week of Territorial Army drivers with private carriage vehicles and heavy goods vehicle licences who also drive professionally in their civilian job in those categories; and if he will make a statement. [159154]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Members of the reserve forces are subject to the following regulations in relation to the number of hours that they can drive:

Regulation (EC) No. 561/2006 of the European Parliament and the Council of the European Union dated 15 March 2006. (This is intended to simplify, clarify and update the previous rules governing drivers' hours, through the introduction of the digital tachograph as well as several other changes to existing rules and regulations).

Defence Instruction Notice 2007 DIN 04-072 (This DIN contains an update of Policy regarding Reserve Forces and the Control of MOD Drivers Hours).

Territorial Army: Manpower

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* outflow and *(b)* inflow of the Territorial Army was in (i) Jarrow constituency, (ii) South Tyneside, (iii) the North East and (iv) the UK in each year since 1997. [159009]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is not possible to provide information on outflow and inflow for the Territorial Army by geographic region, as this information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The following table shows the total intake and outflow for territorial personnel during the period 1 October 2003 to 28 February 2007. October 2003 is the earliest date for which reliable TA inflow and outflow data are available.

Inflow and outflow of the Territorial Army by calendar year[1,2,3,4]

Calendar year	*Inflow*[5]	*Outflow*[6]
2003 (1 October—31 December)	3,360	2,370
2004	7,690	9,410
2005	8,650	8,240
2006	8,560	9,920
2007 (1 January—28 February)[7]	1,020	1,700

[1] The data exclude Full Time Reserve Service (FTRS), Non-Regular Permanent Staff (NRPS) and Mobilised TA but includes the Officer Training Corps (OTC).
[2] The data are based on flows during the period 1 October 2003 to 31 December 2003, calendar years 2004, 2005 and 2006, and the period 1 January 2007 to 28 February 2007.
[3] The data have been rounded to the nearest 10, numbers ending in '5' have been rounded to the nearest multiple of 20 to avoid systematic bias.
[4] Figures are for both Officers and Soldiers.
[5] Inflow figures include all inflow e.g. intake from civil life and intake from other parts of the armed forces, but does not include the inflow of personnel returning from mobilisation.
[6] Outflow figures exclude those personnel who became mobilised.
[7] Due to ongoing data validation following the introduction of the new Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) System, there is no TA information available since 1 March 2007.

Territorial Army: Reorganisation

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what changes in the Territorial Army structure he plans to make; and if he will make a statement. [158975]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer my hon. Friend to the statement made by the then Minister for the Armed Forces on 26 March 2006, *Official Report*, columns 426-28, about Territorial Army rebalancing.

Within a continuing overall establishment of 42,000 (including some 3,500 Officer Training Corps Personnel) the TA will be rebalanced with some units re-roled, some expanded and others reduced. Work is continuing to implement the changes announced.

UK Hydrographic Office

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many stakeholders the team carrying out the review of the UK Hydrographic Office has met during the course of their work thus far. [158888]

Derek Twigg: The study team has engaged and met international stakeholders, including Foreign Government Hydrographic Offices and data suppliers, commercial and Government customers and Trade Union representatives. Survey work on behalf of the study has also sought views of fleet operators, distributors and flag states. In total study team members have formally met and consulted with approximately 25 stakeholders in addition to stakeholders within the MOD.

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to announce the outcome of the review of the UK Hydrographic Office. [158889]

Derek Twigg: I expect to make an announcement in early 2008.

Warships

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future number of warships required by the Royal Navy. [159395]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The requirement is not defined by numbers of warships alone but by the overall capability that they deliver. Our plans for the Royal Navy include the introduction of more advanced and more capable vessels such as the Daring Class destroyers, Astute Class submarines and the Future Aircraft Carriers.

TRANSPORT

Bicycles: Helmets

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will bring forward proposals to make it mandatory for children under 14 to wear a helmet when cycling on a public highway. [159870]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We have no proposals to bring forward legislation on compulsory cycle helmet wearing. We believe that it is sensible for cyclists, especially children, to protect themselves by wearing a cycle helmet. A 2002 review commissioned by the DfT concluded that overall there is evidence that bicycle helmets can be effective at reducing the incidence and severity of head, brain and upper facial injuries and that they can be effective in reducing injury for users of all ages, particularly for children. However, the report also concluded that making cycle helmet wearing compulsory may in some cases discourage some people from cycling, leading to decreased bicycle use. We will shortly be commissioning further research on a range of cycle safety issues, including the use of cycle helmets.

Our regular surveys of helmet wearing rates show that cycle helmets were worn by 28 per cent. of all cyclists on major roads in built up areas in 2004; this compares to 16 per cent. in 1994. The corresponding figures for child cyclists are 14 per cent. in 2004 compared to 18 per cent. in 1994. The wearing rate for teenage boys has decreased from 16 per cent. to 11 per cent. The 2006 helmet wearing rate survey will be published later this year.

While compulsion remains an option that we will review from time to time, it has been our view that, at current helmet wearing rates, making helmets compulsory would cause enforcement difficulties and without greater public acceptance could have an effect on levels of cycling. Meanwhile, we will continue to encourage all cyclists to wear helmets, through our road safety publicity campaigns and advice in publications such as The Highway Code.

Bus Services: Technology

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the costs of equipping all buses in England with smartcard readers. [159315]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 18 October 2007]:* We have, from time to time, produced rough estimates of the cost of equipping buses with smartcard readers. However, producing an accurate estimate for all buses in England is extremely difficult. It depends on a number of factors, such as the number of buses operating scheduled services in England, the number that are already equipped with readers, assumption on back office costs, including the number and ownership of these offices, the type and cost of readers available at any particular time, and the number of readers per bus. For example, if passengers are both swiping cards on boarding and on alighting then two readers may be needed. We currently have no plans to require buses in England to be equipped with smart readers.

Driving Offences: Fines

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many penalty charge notices resulted in bailiffs being called to recover fines. [159125]

Bridget Prentice: I have been asked to reply.

No central record is kept on the number of bailiff actions taken. However, HMCS does hold statistics on the numbers of warrants issued by the Traffic Enforcement Centre (TEC). The number of warrants issued in the financial year 2006-07 was 1,124,224.

Fisheries: Compensation

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what the process is for fishermen to make claims under the London Gateway Port reclamation area disturbance payment compensation scheme; and if she will make a statement; [159057]

(2) if she will make a statement on progress on the compensation to be paid to fishermen under the London Gateway Port disturbance payment compensation scheme. [159058]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The London Gateway port disturbance compensation scheme is a matter of private agreement between the promoters of London Gateway port and local fishermen's organisations.

It will be for any fishermen affected to apply to London Gateway Port Ltd. with a claim for disturbance compensation payment, with such documentation as the compensation scheme requires. The scheme provides that the payment stage is triggered after dredging and reclamation operations for the port have been approved and commenced in the relevant area of the Thames estuary.

M3

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2005, *Official Report*, column 1266W, on the M3, what estimate she has made of the level of road traffic noise between junctions 5 and 7 of the M3 motorway calculated using her Department's traffic noise model for each year since 1995. [159584]

Mr. Tom Harris: The following tables provide estimates of the level of road traffic noise between junctions 5 and 7 of the M3 motorway calculated using the Calculation of Road Traffic Noise, Department of Transport and Welsh Office (1988) for each year since 1995:

Section—M3 J5 to 6

	Estimate of traffic noise in dB
1995	79.7
1996	80.1
1997	80.2
1998	80.4
1999	80.3
2000	80.1
2001	80.2
2002	80.4
2003	80.3
2004	80.3
2005	80.4
2006	80.5

Section—M3 J6 to 7

	Estimate of traffic noise in dB
1995	78.6
1996	79.3
1997	79.5
1998	79.6
1999	79.7
2000	79.7
2001	79.9
2002	79.8
2003	79.9
2004	79.8
2005	79.8
2006	80.0

These estimates are based on average traffic flows and the percentage of heavy goods vehicles but do not include other variable factors, such as obstacles and exposure. The estimated measurement point is calculated at 25 m from the edge of the nearest carriageway and 2.5 m above the carriageway.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average daily traffic flow was *(a)* between junctions 5 and 6 of the M3 motorway, *(b)* between junctions 6 and 7 of the M3 motorway and *(c)* entering and leaving junctions 5, 6 and 7 of the M3 motorway in each year since 1995; and if she will make a statement. [159586]

Mr. Tom Harris: The following tables show the average daily traffic flow *(a)* between junctions 5 and 6 of the M3 motorway and *(b)* between junctions 6 and 7 of the M3 motorway.

	Junction 5 - 6 westbound (WB)	*Junction 6 - 5 Eastbound (EB)*
1995	42,934	n/a
1996	n/a	n/a
1997	45,758	45,535
1998	47,018	47,197
1999	47,581	48,120
2000	47,873	47,933

	Junction 5 - 6 westbound (WB)	Junction 6 - 5 Eastbound (EB)
2001	49,022	48,312
2002	49,093	49,723
2003	49,663	50,632
2004	49,150	50,615
2005	50,196	50,720
2006	52,765	51,951

n/a = Not available.

	Junction 6 - 7 westbound (WB)	Junction 7 - 6 Eastbound (EB)
1995	38,222	37,946
1996	39,387	39,303
1997	41,177	40,956
1998	42,331	42,770
1999	43,138	43,418
2000	n/a	43,995
2001	44,938	45,122
2002	45,108	43,948
2003	45,074	45,298
2004	45,060	44,217
2005	44,952	43,744
2006	45,930	46,616

n/a = Not available.

(c) Information on traffic entering and leaving these junctions is only available since 2005, when automatic traffic counting sites were established. The following table shows the record of average daily traffic flows entering and leaving junctions 5, 6 and 7 of the M3 motorway since 2005.

	EB off-slip	WB off-slip	EB on-slip	WB on-slip
Junction 5				
2005	7,576	4,875	5,486	8,276
2006	7,703	4,892	5,773	9,550
Junction 6				
2005	8,170	12,880	n/a	8,223
2006	8,238	13,110	n/a	8,380
Junction 7				
2005	4,034	3,023	3,786	4,498
2006	4,069	2,974	4,306	5,255

Motor Vehicles: Travel

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of motorists who used their vehicles to drive *(a)* fewer than five miles, *(b)* between five and 25 miles and *(c)* more than 25 miles in each of the last five years. [159656]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table shows the percentage of car driver trips in Great Britain which are *(a)* less than five miles, *(b)* five to less than 25 miles and *(c)* 25 miles and over for 2002-06, based on data from the National Travel Survey.

Car driver trips per person per year by trip length, Great Britain, 2002 to 2006

Percentage

	Under five miles	Five to under 25 miles	25 miles and over	All lengths
2002	57	36	6	100
2003	56	37	6	100
2004	56	37	7	100
2005	56	37	7	100
2006	56	37	7	100

It is not possible to estimate the number of motorists making trips of different lengths using the data available.

Navigation: River Thames

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make a statement on the availability of pilots for the river Thames and the Thames estuary. [158486]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Pilotage services on the Thames are a matter for the Port of London authority as the relevant Competent Harbour authority.

Railways

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many new rail vehicles for *(a)* inter-city services, *(b)* commuter services in London and *(c)* local regional rail services were procured in each of the last 10 years. [159314]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 18 October 2007]:* The number of vehicles procured for *(a)* is around 1,200 vehicles, *(b)* around 3,400 vehicles, and *(c)* around 600 vehicles.

Railways: Standards

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans she has to meet Virgin Trains to discuss improvements to speed and reliability of trains between Euston and Wolverhampton. [159155]

Mr. Tom Harris: Department for Transport officials met with representatives of Virgin Train and Network Rail on 31 August to review progress on the west coast route modernisation programme that will result in reductions in the journey time to and from Wolverhampton from December 2008.

Road Traffic: Air Pollution

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what levels of road traffic pollution were *(a)* estimated and *(b)* recorded in the vicinity of junctions 5 to 7 of the M3 motorway in each year since 1995; and if she will make a statement. [159585]

Mr. Tom Harris: The levels of road traffic pollution that were estimated by the Highways Agency on this section of the M3 motorway are shown in the following table.

Section	NO_2	PM_{10}
M3 J5 to 6	31.9	28.7
M3 J6 to 7	32.1	28.8

The table shows the estimated level of main pollutants in 2005 at 20 m from the centre of the carriageway. The two pollutants estimated, which are traffic specific, are Nitrogen Dioxide (NO_2) and particulate matter smaller than ten micrograms (PM_{10}) and the amounts are in micrograms/m^3.

The Highways Agency has no estimates for other years since 1995.

The Highways Agency does not record the levels of road, traffic pollution in the vicinity of junctions 5-7 of the M3 motorway.

Shipping: Registration

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make a statement on the decision to allow the Morning Miracle to transfer to the UK Shipping Register; and what assessment was made of her fire-fighting capabilities. [159869]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The car carrier Morning Miracle met all the safety and other quality criteria for acceptance on to the UK Ship Register. The fire-fighting arrangements were accepted following a detailed risk assessment by Det Norske Veritas, one of our recognised classification societies. The arrangements fully meet international requirements and the MCA is satisfied that the ship is operating safely.

TREASURY

Aggregates Levy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much has been collected by the aggregates levy in *(a)* Stroud constituency, *(b)* Gloucestershire, *(c)* England and *(d)* the United Kingdom in each year since its inception. [158547]

Angela Eagle: Aggregates levy revenue receipts and forecast revenues were published in Table B8 of the 2007 pre-Budget report and Comprehensive Spending Review. These are provided for the UK as a whole and are not available by geographical region. HM Revenue and Customs routinely publishes data on levy receipts in the Aggregates Levy Bulletin which is available at:

http://www.uktradeinfo.com.

Bank Services

Ms Butler: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for unclaimed assets in dormant bank and building society accounts. [159251]

Kitty Ussher: The Government's proposals for unclaimed assets in dormant bank and building society accounts were set out in consultation documents released in March and May of this year. In July, the Prime Minister made a statement setting out the Government's draft legislative programme for the next session. This included plans for an unclaimed assets Bill. The Government will set out their responses to consultation shortly.

Death: Clostridium

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths were recorded where clostridium difficile was *(a)* mentioned and *(b)* the underlying cause of death in (i) Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Trust and (ii) England in each of the last five years. [159667]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 October 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths have been recorded where *Clostridium difficile* was (a) mentioned and (b) the underlying cause of death in (i) Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Trust and (ii) England in each of the past five years. (159667)

Special analyses of deaths in England and Wales involving *Clostridium difficile* are undertaken annually by ONS, and results are published in Health Statistics Quarterly. The latest year for which figures are currently available is 2005. The number of deaths for England where *Clostridium difficile* was (a) mentioned and (b) the underlying cause of death from 2001 to 2005 are published in Table 3 of Health Statistics Quarterly 33[1] (p73). This is available in the House of Commons Library.

ONS does not routinely link information on hospitals to their respective trusts. Therefore figures for the Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Trust are not readily available.

[1] Office for National Statistics: Report: Deaths involving *Clostridium difficile*: England and Wales, 2001-2005. *Health Statistics Quarterly* 33, 71-75.

Debts

Jenny Willott: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the level of personal debt was as a percentage of disposable income *(a)* before and *(b)* after housing costs in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [158980]

(2) what the level of personal debt was as a percentage of gross disposable income in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [158981]

(3) what the level of *(a)* secured and *(b)* unsecured personal debt was as a percentage of gross disposable income in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [158982]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 October 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your questions asking what the level of personal debt was as a percentage of disposable income (a) before housing costs and (b) after housing costs in each year since 1997; what the level of personal debt was as a percentage of gross disposable income in each year since 1997; what the level of (a) secured and (b) unsecured personal debt was as a percentage of gross disposable income in each year since 1997. (158980, 158981, 158982)

The information requested is shown in the attached tables.

Table 1: total financial liabilities as a percentage of gross disposable income before and after the deduction of loans secured on dwellings for the households and non-profits institutions serving households sector

	£ million			Percentage	
	Total financial liabilities less loans secured on dwellings	Total financial liabilities	Household gross disposable income	Total financial liabilities less loans secured on dwellings as a percentage of households' gross disposable income	Total financial liabilities as a percentage of households' gross disposable income
1997	156980	586659	559941	28	105
1998	169233	625134	582790	29	107
1999	182745	675599	608988	30	111
2000	199724	734790	643415	31	114
2001	220427	810665	686312	32	118
2002	253754	923144	709048	36	130
2003	273982	1046913	740389	37	141
2004	296180	1172032	765683	39	153
2005	311067	1249393	807989	38	155
2006	323849	1370221	836911	39	164

Source:
Tables A38 and A64 of United Kingdom Economic Accounts
http:/www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1904

Table 2: long term loans and short term loans as a percentage of gross disposable income for the households and non-profits institutions serving households sector

	£ million			Percentage	
	Long term loans	Short term loans	Household gross disposable income	Long term loans as a percentage of households' gross disposable income	Short term loans as a percentage of households' gross disposable income
1997	443522	88412	559941	79	16
1998	470384	97404	582790	81	17
1999	508445	109208	608988	83	18
2000	551110	124323	643415	86	19
2001	608358	140891	686312	89	21
2002	690290	157748	709048	97	22
2003	794704	163506	740389	107	22
2004	899959	183390	765683	118	24
2005	964207	194129	807989	119	24
2006	1073320	205012	836911	128	24

Source:
Tables A38 and A64 of United Kingdom Economic Accounts
http:/www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=1904

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of his Department's employees possess a professional accountancy qualification; and what proportion of employees at each of the six most senior grades possess a professional accountancy qualification. [159478]

Angela Eagle: As the information is not stored centrally, the question could be answered only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance his Department follows on the maximum time taken to respond to hon. Members' correspondence; and what performance against that target was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [158583]

Angela Eagle: The Cabinet Office publishes guidance for Departments on handling correspondence from Members of Parliament, Members of the House of Lords, MEPs, and Members of devolved assemblies. The guidance is available on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/upload/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/correspondence.pdf

The Cabinet Office also publishes on an annual basis, a report on Departments' and agencies performance on handling Members' and Peers' correspondence. The last report for 2006 was published via a written ministerial statement on 28 March 2007 and can be viewed at:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200607/cmhansrd/cm070328/wmstext/70328m0004.htm

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent by his Department on official hospitality in the last 12 months. [158905]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to him by the then Financial Secretary (John Healey) on 15 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 689W.

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions he has visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [158925]

Angela Eagle: The Chancellor has made a number of visits to the regions and nations of the United Kingdom and will be continuing to do so over the coming months.

Employment: Clackmannanshire

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the level of youth employment in Ochil and South Perthshire since 2005; [159309]

(2) what assessment he has made of the level of youth unemployment in Clackmannanshire in each year since 1997. [159310]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Mike Hughes, dated 22 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions about youth employment and unemployment. I am replying in her absence. (159309, 159310)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

Table 1 provides the number of people employed, aged 16 to 24 and the corresponding employment rates for, the Ochil and South Perthshire constituency for the 12 month periods ending in March for 2006 and 2007, from the APS.

Table 2 provides the number of people unemployed, aged 16 to 24, and the corresponding unemployment rates for Clackmannanshire. Estimates are provided from the local area LFS for the 12 months ending in February, for 1998 to 2004, and from the APS for the 12 months ending in March, for 2005 to 2007.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on very small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). Table 3 shows the annual average number of JSA claimants claiming for over 12 months, resident in Clackmannanshire for 2005 and 2006. The table also shows these claimants as a proportion of the resident population aged 16-24.

Table 1: Employed persons, aged 16 to 24, resident in the Ochil and South Perthshire parliamentary constituency

12 months ending	*Level*	*Thousand* *Rate[1] (percentage)*
March 2006	4	61
March 2007	5	61

[1] Employed as a percentage of the population in relevant age group.
Note:
Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
Source:
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population survey.

Table 2: Unemployed persons, aged 16 to 24, resident in the Clackmannanshire local authority

12 months ending	*Level*	*Thousand* *Rate[1] (percentage)*
February 1998	[2]—	[2]—
February 1999	[2]—	[2]—
February 2000	[2]—	[2]—
February 2001	[2]—	[2]—
February 2002	[2]—	[2]—
February 2003	[2]—	[2]—
February 2004	[3]—	15
March 2005	[3]—	9
March 2006	[3]—	16
March 2007	1	18

[1] Unemployed as a percentage of the economically active population in age group.
[2] Sample size too small to provide estimates. [3] Less than 500. *Note:* Estimates are subject to sampling variability. *Source:* Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population survey.

Table 3: Annual average number of claimants of jobseeker's allowance aged 18 to 24, resident in the Clackmannanshire local authority

	Number	*Proportion (percentage)[1]*
1997	465	8
1998	440	8
1999	390	7
2000	355	7
2001	300	5
2002	320	6
2003	300	6
2004	310	6
2005	335	6
2006	325	6

[1] Number of claimants expressed as a percentage of the resident population of age group.
Notes:
1. Claimant count data by age includes computerised claims only.
2. Dataset rounded to the nearest 5.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative data.

Floods: Reconstruction

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the value to the Exchequer of VAT receipts arising from repair and reconstruction work made necessary by the 2007 summer floods; and if he will make a statement. [159462]

Kitty Ussher: No such estimate has been made.

Income Tax

Mr. Allen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was raised in income tax in the last year for which figures are available. [159979]

Jane Kennedy: Monthly, quarterly and annual income tax receipts are published on the HMRC website. Table 1.2 contains annual data and table 1.3 contains quarterly and monthly data.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/table1-2.pdf

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/table1-3.pdf

Individual Savings Accounts

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will allow transfers from equity into cash individual savings accounts. [159267]

Kitty Ussher: The Government's objective in allowing transfers of money held in cash ISAs to stocks and shares ISAs from April 2008 is to further promote share ownership by encouraging savers to diversify their assets and benefit from the potentially higher returns offered by stocks and shares over the medium to long term. Allowing transfers from stocks and shares to cash would not meet this objective.

Life Expectancy

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the life expectancy was for people in *(a)* the five most deprived areas in England and *(b)* England in each year since 1979. [159808]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the life expectancy was for people in (a) the five most deprived areas in England and (b) England in each year since 1979. (159808).

Life expectancy figures are calculated as three year rolling averages. The tables below provide the period life expectancy at birth for (a) men and (b) women in the five most deprived local authorities in England, and England, for 1991-93 (the earliest period available) to 2003-05 (the latest period available).

Table 1: Period life expectancy at birth[1], the five most deprived local authorities in England[2], and England, 1991-93 and 2003-05[3], males

	Hackney (1)	Tower Hamlets (2)	Manchester (3)	Islington (4)	Liverpool (5)	Years of life England
1991-93	71	71	70	71	71	74
1992-94	72	71	70	71	71	74
1993-95	71	71	70	71	71	74
1994-96	72	71	70	72	71	74
1995-97	72	71	70	72	71	75
1996-98	73	72	70	73	72	75
1997-99	73	73	70	73	72	75
1998-2000	73	73	71	73	72	75
1999-01	74	73	71	73	72	76
2000-02	74	73	71	74	73	76
2001-03	74	73	72	73	73	76
2002-04	75	74	72	74	73	77
2003-05	75	75	73	75	73	77

Table 2: Period life expectancy at birth[1], the five most deprived local authorities in England[2], and England, 1991-93 and 2003-05[3], females

	Hackney (1)	Tower Hamlets (2)	Manchester (3)	Islington (4)	Liverpool (5)	Years of life England
1991-93	77	78	76	78	77	79
1992-94	78	78	77	78	77	79
1993-95	78	78	77	78	77	79
1994-96	79	77	76	78	77	80
1995-97	79	78	77	79	77	80
1996-98	80	79	77	80	77	80
1997-99	79	79	77	79	77	80
1998-2000	80	79	77	79	77	80
1999-01	80	79	77	79	77	80
2000-02	80	79	77	79	78	81
2001-03	80	79	78	80	78	81
2002-04	81	79	78	79	78	81
2003-05	81	80	78	80	78	81

[1] Period life expectancy at birth is an estimate of the average number of years a newborn baby would survive if he or she experienced the area's age-specific mortality rates for that time period throughout his or her life. The figure reflects mortality among those living in the area in each time period, rather than mortality among those born in each area. It is not therefore the number of years a baby born in the area in each time period could actually expect to live, both because the death rates of the area are likely to change in the future and because many of those born in the area will live elsewhere for at least some part of their lives.

[2] Defined using the English Indices of Deprivation 2004 (ID2004) local authority district average ranks, where 1 is the most deprived. The ID2004 are based on one time period (2001-02), therefore rankings are the same for all years.

[3] Three-year rolling averages, based on deaths registered in each year and mid-year population estimates.

National Debt

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the UK's structural deficit in comparison with those of other EU member states. [158997]

Kitty Ussher: Cyclically-adjusted net borrowing in the UK has averaged 1.0 per cent. of GDP over the

current economic cycle. Over the same period, the structural balance has averaged 1.9 per cent. in the euro area, 2.1 per cent. in France, 2.3 per cent. in Germany and 2.8 per cent. in Italy.

National Income

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for what reason he has ceased to produce an estimated GDP deflator at market prices for financial years 2007-08 to 2010-11; if he will place a copy of his latest estimate in the Library; and if he will make a statement. [158822]

Angela Eagle: The latest projections for the GDP deflator by financial year were published, as usual, in the 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review (Cm 7227) Table B3: Economic assumptions for the public finance projections. This includes an estimate for 2007-08 and projections for 2008-09 through 2012-13.

Population: Southend

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the population is in *(a)* Southend on Sea and *(b)* Southend West constituency; and what estimate he has made of the likely equivalent figures in (i) 2011 and (ii) 2015. [159649]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Mike Hughes, dated 22 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question regarding what the current population is in (a) Southend-on-Sea and (b) Southend West constituency; and what estimate has been made of the equivalent figures for (i) 2011 and (ii) 2015.I am replying in her absence. (159649)

The latest available population estimate for mid-2006 for Southend-on-Sea is 160,000. The projection for i) 2011 is 161,000 and for ii) 2015 is 162,000.

ONS does not make population projections for Parliamentary Constituency areas. Annual population estimates are not currently available for Southend West constituency, though we are intending to publish an experimental estimates series for Parliamentary Constituency areas. Estimates for 2002-2005 are planned for release in December 2007.

Revenue and Customs: Official Hospitality

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent from the public purse on staff parties at HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last three years. [159020]

Jane Kennedy: There has been no expenditure from the public purse on staff parties during the last three years.

Guidance on the regularity and propriety of expenditure is given in the HM Treasury publication 'Managing Public Money' (available on the HM Treasury website). This guidance has been interpreted to form departmental policy. The policy adopted is that it is inappropriate to use official funds to pay for staff parties; the cost of any parties are met by staff themselves.

Taxation: Business

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases being investigated by HM Revenue and Customs under the settlements legislation were stopped as a result of the House of Lords judgment in the Jones *v.* Garnett case. [157550]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of the Jones *v.* Garnett case, including all legal fees and associated charges. [157551]

Angela Eagle: Known legal and associated costs of the Jones *v.* Garnett case, including HMRC counsels' costs and court fees, are £120,207. However, the Treasury has not made any estimate of the costs of the Jones *v.* Garnett case. The total costs incurred by HM Revenue and Customs cannot be calculated as some of the taxpayers' costs for the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords are either unknown or still to be settled. In addition, no records have been kept to enable costs such as those related to remuneration and associated overheads for the time spent by HMRC employees who have worked on aspects of the case to be calculated.

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost of HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) investigations under the settlements legislation was in each of the last three years, including legal charges and HMRC and departmental staff costs. [157552]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which Minister was responsible for approving the original decision for HM Revenue and Customs to pursue the Jones *v.* Garnett case under the settlements legislation. [158299]

Angela Eagle: Responsibility for the administration of the tax affairs of individual taxpayers lies with the board of HM Revenue and Customs and not with Ministers.

Taxation: Domicile

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which team in his Department is responsible for developing policy on the taxation of non-domiciled individuals. [159921]

Jane Kennedy: A number of different teams in both HM Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs have worked on the review of the residence and domicile rules that govern personal taxation, alongside other duties.

Taxation: Environment Protection

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what matters in respect of the use of fiscal instruments to combat climate change were discussed at the meeting of G7 finance ministers in Washington DC on 20 October 2007; and what decisions were taken on the matter. [159518]

Angela Eagle: The G7 communiqué describes the outcome of this weekend's meeting on these subjects:

"We discussed the importance of unified action to address energy security and global climate change while supporting growth and economic development. We are committed to working with major economies and through the UN climate process to that end. We agree that market based policy measures should be effectively designed to meet specific conditions in each country. We noted the need for scaling up investments in cleaner and lower carbon technologies through existing mechanisms such as the Clean Energy and Investment Framework and agreed to explore the creation of a clean technology fund to support the deployment of clean energy technologies to developing countries."

The Government are committed to continuing to work with international partners, such as the G7, to combat climate change, including through the development of market-based policy measures.

Unemployment: Greater London

Lyane Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the level of long-term adult unemployment was in each London constituency in each year since 2005. [158987]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about long-term adult unemployment in each year since 2005. (158987)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of unemployment for local areas from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1 provides estimates of the levels of long-term adult unemployment in each London constituency for the 12 month periods ending in March for 2006 and 2007, from the APS.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). Table 2 shows the annual average number of JSA claimants claiming for over 12 months, resident in each London constituency for 2005 and 2006.

Table 1: Long-term adult unemployment: London parliamentary constituencies

	Long-term unemployed (thousand) 12 months ending	
London parliamentary constituency	*March 2006*	*March 2007*
Barking	1	[1]—
Battersea	[1]—	[1]—
Beckenham	[1]—	[1]—
Bethnal Green and Bow	2	2
Bexleyheath and Crayford	[1]—	[1]—
Brent East	[1]—	[1]—
Brent North	[1]—	[1]—
Brent South	2	2
Brentford and Isleworth	[1]—	1
Bromley and Chislehurst	[1]—	[1]—
Camberwell and Peckham	1	1
Carshalton and Wallington	[1]—	[1]—
Chingford and Woodford Green	1	1
Chipping Barnet	[1]—	[1]—
Cities of London and Westminster	1	1
Croydon Central	[1]—	[1]—
Croydon North	2	2
Croydon South	[1]—	[1]—
Dagenham	1	1
Dulwich and West Norwood	[1]—	1
Ealing North	1	1
Ealing Southall	1	[1]—
Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush	3	1
East Ham	1	1
Edmonton	[1]—	[1]—
Eltham	1	1
Enfield North	[1]—	[1]—
Enfield, Southgate	[1]—	[1]—
Erith and Thamesmead	1	1
Feltham and Heston	1	[1]—
Finchley and Golders Green	2	1
Greenwich and Woolwich	[1]—	[1]—
Hackney North and Stoke Newington	1	1
Hackney South and Shoreditch	2	1
Hammersmith and Fulham	1	[1]—
Hampstead and Highgate	1	[1]—
Harrow East	[1]—	[1]—
Harrow West	[1]—	1
Hayes and Harlington	1	[1]—
Hendon	2	[1]—
Holborn and St. Pancras	1	1
Hornchurch	[1]—	[1]—
Hornsey and Wood Green	[1]—	[1]—
Ilford North	[1]—	[1]—
Ilford South	[1]—	[1]—
Islington North	1	[1]—
Islington South and Finsbury	1	1
Kensington and Chelsea	2	[1]—
Kingston and Surbiton	[1]—	[1]—
Lewisham East	[1]—	[1]—
Lewisham West	[1]—	1
Lewisham, Deptford	[1]—	[1]—
Leyton and Wanstead	1	[1]—

Table 1: Long-term adult unemployment: London parliamentary constituencies

London parliamentary constituency	Long-term unemployed (thousand) 12 months ending March 2006	March 2007
Mitcham and Morden	2	1
North Southwark and Bermondsey	[1]—	[1]—
Old Bexley and Sidcup	[1]—	[1]—
Orpington	[1]—	[1]—
Poplar and Canning Town	1	2
Putney	[1]—	[1]—
Regent's Park and Kensington North	2	1
Richmond Park	[1]—	[1]—
Romford	[1]—	[1]—
Ruislip—Northwood	[1]—	[1]—
Streatham	1	[1]—
Sutton and Cheam	[1]—	[1]—
Tooting	[1]—	2
Tottenham	1	2
Twickenham	1	1
Upminster	[1]—	[1]—
Uxbridge	[1]—	[1]—
Vauxhall	2	2
Walthamstow	1	1
West Ham	1	2
Wimbledon	1	1

[1] Sample size too small to provide estimates.

Notes:

1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
2. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with caution.

Source:

Annual Population Survey

Table 2: Long-term JSA claimants: London parliamentary constituencies

London parliamentary constituency	Long-term (claiming over 12 months)[1] Annual average 2005	2006
Barking	215	280
Battersea	335	380
Beckenham	295	325
Bethnal Green and Bow	1,000	1,145
Bexleyheath and Crayford	120	140
Brent East	735	725
Brent North	200	190
Brent South	700	665
Brentford and Isleworth	155	155
Bromley and Chislehurst	180	205
Camberwell and Peckham	945	805
Carshalton and Wallington	190	220
Chingford and Woodford Green	225	250
Chipping Barnet	190	210

Table 2: Long-term JSA claimants: London parliamentary constituencies

London parliamentary constituency	Long-term (claiming over 12 months)[1] Annual average 2005	2006
Cities of London and Westminster	375	370
Croydon Central	185	270
Croydon North	465	580
Croydon South	75	100
Dagenham	300	340
Dulwich and West Norwood	610	580
Ealing North	250	310
Ealing Southall	300	320
Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush	465	430
East Ham	355	545
Edmonton	395	505
Eltham	185	265
Enfield North	275	270
Enfield, Southgate	255	270
Erith and Thamesmead	395	490
Feltham and Heston	105	130
Finchley and Golders Green	300	380
Greenwich and Woolwich	465	525
Hackney North and Stoke Newington	620	680
Hackney South and Shoreditch	650	780
Hammersmith and Fulham	445	435
Hampstead and Highgate	495	560
Harrow East	225	225
Harrow West	170	160
Hayes and Harlington	195	190
Hendon	305	320
Holborn and St. Pancras	740	785
Hornchurch	100	115
Hornsey and Wood Green	560	585
Ilford North	165	205
Ilford South	255	410
Islington North	700	720
Islington South and Finsbury	520	530
Kensington and Chelsea	290	310
Kingston and Surbiton	165	120
Lewisham East	350	380
Lewisham West	420	445
Lewisham, Deptford	480	560
Leyton and Wanstead	395	470

Table 2: Long-term JSA claimants: London parliamentary constituencies

London parliamentary constituency	Long-term (claiming over 12 months)[1] Annual average 2005	2006
Mitcham and Morden	270	370
North Southwark and Bermondsey	1,030	830
Old Bexley and Sidcup	85	105
Orpington	150	160
Poplar and Canning Town	970	1,110
Putney	250	250
Regent's Park and Kensington North	615	650
Richmond Park	185	145
Romford	85	105
Ruislip—Northwood	145	105
Streatham	700	660
Sutton and Cheam	140	130
Tooting	320	345
Tottenham	1,180	1,340
Twickenham	140	130
Upminster	105	125
Uxbridge	125	145
Vauxhall	885	790
Walthamstow	645	730
West Ham	500	620
Wimbledon	130	115

[1] Computerised claims only.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus Administrative system

Unemployment: Reading

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of the 18 to 24-year-old population of Reading East constituency was not in education, training or employment in each quarter since the second quarter of 2001; and if he will make a statement. [159528]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Mike Hughes, dated 22 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about young people not in education, training or employment. I am replying in her absence. (159528)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. Quarterly data are not available for parliamentary constituencies.

The table attached, shows the numbers of 18 to 24 year olds not in full-time education, employment or training, resident in Reading East constituency for the 12 month periods ending in February for 2002 to 2004 from the local area LFS and for the 12 month periods ending in March for 2005 to 2007, from the APS. The table also shows these numbers as the percentage of all 18 to 24 year olds in the area for each year.

Estimates for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, are based on very small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

Persons aged 18 to 24 who are not in full-time education, employment or training resident in the Reading East constituency

12 months ending	Number (Thousand)	Percentage of all 18-24 year olds
February 2002	1	12
February 2003	1	13
February 2004	1	12
March 2005	2	13
March 2006	1	10
March 2007	1	14

Note:
Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
Source:
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population survey.

Welfare Tax Credits

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent progress has made in the resolution of the tax credits case of Mr. Morgan of St. Albans constituency; and if he will make a statement. [158571]

Kitty Ussher: A detailed response was sent to Mr. Morgan on the 25 September.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council of England: Finance

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* grant-in-aid and *(b)* National Lottery funding was allocated to the Arts Council England (ACE) in each of the last five years; and how much ACE awarded to brass bands in the same period. [1] [157098]

Margaret Hodge: This information is shown in the table:

£000

	Grant in aid (revenue)	National Lottery	Awards made by ACE to brass bands[1]
2002-03	289,000	178,000	217
2003-04	325,000	161,000	209
2004-05	368,000	169,000	200
2005-06	412,000	171,000	219
2006-07	412,000	157,000	367

[1] Figures include both Grant in Aid and National Lottery funding.

Arts: Finance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many arts organisations in each London *(a)* constituency and *(b)* borough received Arts Council England funding in each of the last five years. [158787]

Margaret Hodge: This information is shown in the following table:

Borough	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08[1]	Total
Barking and Dagenham	2	2	2	1	2	9
Barnet	7	6	7	11	5	36

1. *[Official Report, 6 December 2007, Vol. 468, c. 8MC.]*

Borough	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08[1]	Total
Bexley	0	0	0	1	0	1
Brent	10	11	12	10	8	51
Bromley	3	5	0	2	1	11
Camden	61	73	58	63	39	294
City of London	6	10	7	5	4	32
Croydon	10	8	10	4	4	36
Ealing	6	7	8	6	3	30
Enfield	6	5	4	6	3	24
Greenwich	16	19	19	11	10	75
Hackney	57	72	70	57	40	296
Hammersmith and Fulham	19	22	14	16	10	81
Haringey	9	18	24	19	10	80
Harrow	5	6	9	6	2	28
Havering	2	2	3	4	2	13
Hillingdon	3	4	5	2	2	16
Hounslow	7	6	9	6	5	33
Islington	63	69	76	63	44	315
Kensington and Chelsea	23	27	26	30	12	118
Kingston upon Thames	3	6	5	4	2	20
Lambeth	54	64	64	58	39	279
Lewisham	20	17	18	21	13	89
Merton	6	3	4	4	1	18
Newham	9	8	8	8	7	40
Redbridge	2	2	2	2	1	9
Richmond upon Thames	11	6	9	7	3	36
Southwark	58	61	72	56	42	289
Sutton	0	1	2	0	0	3
Tower Hamlets	61	65	76	62	47	311
Waltham Forest	12	5	6	7	5	35
Wandsworth	30	28	30	23	17	128
Westminster	63	68	83	78	49	341
Total	644	706	742	653	432	3,177

[1] 2007-08 figures are lower as they only include organisations that have received grants for the arts funding for the first half of the year.

Culture: England

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will take steps to promote English folk dance and song; and if he will make a statement. [157782]

Margaret Hodge: Government support for English folk dance and song is primarily channelled through Arts Council England, which funds a number of organisations who promote and develop these art forms.

Levels of financial support for music and dance through Arts Council England are at their highest ever, with the music sector receiving over £100 million and the dance sector over £34 million during 2006-07. This funding includes support for folk dance and song.

Overall arts funding has increased in real terms by 73 per cent. since 1998 and in 2007-08, Arts Council England will receive £412 million.

The Arts Council will receive an above-inflation increase over the next three-year spending review period. This means an extra £12 million in 2008-09, £26.5 million in 2009-10 and £50 million in 2010-11. This is a real year-on-year increase of 1.1 per cent. and will enable the arts to continue to thrive and grow.

Departments: Secondment

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff are seconded to his Department from outside Government; from which outside body each has been seconded; and what the length is of each secondment. [157888]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has eight staff on secondment from outside Government currently. Details of the outside bodies and the lengths of the secondments involved are listed as follows.

English Heritage (2 staff)—one for 2 years, the other for 3 years

British Library—3 years

The Royal Parks—2 years

Museums, Libraries and Archives Council—3 years

Manchester International Festival—7 months

The French Government—2 years

The Japanese Government—3 months

English Heritage: Greater London

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many English Heritage staff were located at Bunhill Row, London in each year since 2004. [159538]

Margaret Hodge: These figures are set out in the following table:

	Number
2004	0
2005	0
June 2006	390
March 2007	186

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many English Heritage staff were located at 1 Waterhouse Square, London in each year since 2004. [159540]

Margaret Hodge: These figures are as follows:

	Number
2004	0
2005	0
2006	76
2007	254

English Heritage: Offices

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was received by English Heritage from Legal and General in respect of the break made in their lease on offices at 23 Savile Row, London. [159543]

Margaret Hodge: The lease under which English Heritage occupied Savile Row was due to end in 2010. English Heritage agreed to vacate early at Legal and General's request on terms which are the subject of a commercially confidential agreement.

Floods: Sportsgrounds

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate has been made of the cost of repairing flood damaged *(a)* cricket pitches and *(b)* other sports facilities; and what funding is available to help affected clubs. [158228]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* National Sports Foundation funding may support repairs to flood damaged sports facilities. It is managed by Sport England and will take into account all proceeds from insurance cover. To date, two applications of this nature have been received. In addition, Sport England's Yorkshire and West Midlands regions are providing advice and guidance to support sports provision provided by clubs and others affected by the floods. A full picture of the estimated costs of repairing flood damaged sports facilities, including cricket pitches, has not been collected centrally.

Information Officers: English Heritage

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press officers are employed by English Heritage. [154127]

Margaret Hodge: English Heritage employees seven full-time press officers and three part-time press officers. The full-time equivalent is 8.8 posts. They provide a range of services to the organisation including stakeholder relations work, campaigning, event management and they also give strategic advice. They support English Heritage's headquarters and its nine regional offices.

Internet: Copyright

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress is being made on the implementation of recommendation 39 of the Gowers Review, on internet service providers' responsibility for copyright theft; and if he will make a statement. [158204]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

Industry associations representing the interests of internet service providers and copyright holders have been discussing development of a voluntary protocol to address misuse of content and copyright theft. We are monitoring progress closely and would need to see agreement before the end of the year on a protocol to be trialled in order to forestall the need for any regulatory intervention.

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he plans to ensure that internet service providers share responsibility with rights holders for combating online copyright theft. [158205]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

The Government agreed to take forward implementation of recommendation 39 of the Gowers Review on internet service providers' responsibility for copyright theft. We are monitoring closely the progress of discussions between the internet service providers and rights holders towards negotiating a voluntary protocol by the end of the year. We will also consider what regulatory measures we may need to take should such a voluntary agreement not prove satisfactory.

Olympic Games: Tourism

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many times and on what dates the Tourism 2012 Group has met to discuss its Tourism 2012 Strategy. [159705]

James Purnell: The Ministerial Advisory Group (formally known as the Tourism 2012 Group) has met seven times, on the 18 January and 15 June 2006, and on the 23 January, 19 February, 27 March, 9 May and 21 June 2007. The new Tourism Minister also met group members on 17, 18, 19 and 25 July.

Royal Parks Agency: Standards

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what targets were set by his Department for income generation by the Royal Parks Agency for each year since 2001; and what targets have been set for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [158297]

Margaret Hodge: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has set the Royal Parks the following targets for income generation since 2001:

	Target
2000-01	To increase income by 10 per cent. from the 1999-2000 level, from all sources except recharges and VAT refunds.
2001-02	To increase income by 10 per cent. from the 2000-01 level, from all sources except recharges and VAT refunds.
2002-03	To increase income by 10 per cent. from the 2001-02 level, from all sources except recharges and VAT refunds.
2003-04 to 2005-06	Increase self generated income by £1.1 million to £7 million by 2005-06.
2006-07	To deliver greater value for money for the taxpayer though increased income generation and reduced dependency on vote funding. To raise an income of £7 million. The Royal Parks exceeded the target by achieving income of £9.3 million.

We are discussing with the Royal Parks targets for the next spending review, period.

Tour Operators: Vetting

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make it his policy to require UK tour operators to *(a)* check that staff employed in hotels abroad are screened to ensure that it is suitable for them to work with children and *(b)* inform customers if staff working hotels abroad, including those that have been franchised, have been

convicted of any sexual offences involving minors. [154637]

Margaret Hodge: UK nationals working with children in overseas hotels used by UK tour operators which are members of the Association of British Travel Agents are subject to UK police checks before appointment.

Police checks or screening of the criminal records of foreign nationals either working for UK tour operators abroad, or working in hotels used by those operators, are matters for the law of the destination country and the local enforcement of that law.

Treasure Trove

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of treasure finds were reported via a finds liaison officer in 2006; and if he will make a statement. [156843]

Margaret Hodge: In 2006, out of 673 treasure finds reported to coroners, 97 per cent. were reported via a Finds Liaison Officer. This serves to highlight the excellent work the network of FLOs are doing to encourage and support the reporting of treasure.

VisitBritain: Finance

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department provided to *(a)* Visit Britain and *(b)* Visit London in each of the last five years. [155651]

Margaret Hodge: VisitBritain's grant in aid funding for the last five years was as follows:

	£ million
2002-03	47.1
2003-04	47.9
2004-05	48.4
2005-06	49.05
2006-07	50.05

DCMS has provided an additional £1.9 million a year to the Greater London authority since 2002-03, to support the Mayor's statutory tourism duties. This funding supports London's important role as a gateway to the rest of the country for international visitors.

DCMS also provides £3.6 million a year in grant in aid to regional development agencies for their tourism support work. That funding forms part of the agencies' total support for the sector, which totalled £43.5 million in 2006-07.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departments: Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people were employed by his Department on 1 January in each of the last five years; and how many of these staff were *(a)* permanent employees, *(b)* temporary staff and *(c)* contractors. [158324]

Mr. Malik: Over the past five years the Department for International Development employed the following numbers of permanent staff:

	Number
2003	1,600
2004	1,780
2005	1,880
2006	1,740
2007	1,710

The Department does not hold central records of temporary staff or contractors (i.e. staff engaged but not paid directly from the Department's payroll).

Indonesia: Overseas Aid

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what value of additional aid has been provided to Indonesia following the recent series of earthquakes in the region. [159186]

Mr. Malik: The Government of Indonesia have not requested international assistance following the recent earthquakes. DFID has been monitoring events, co-ordinating with the Government of Indonesia, UN, NGOs and other donors, and has been prepared to respond if necessary.

Given the frequency of natural disasters in Indonesia, its national systems and resources are well prepared and largely able to cope. We are providing £4.4 million through the United Nations Development Programme for a major new disaster risk reduction programme in Indonesia, which will help the Government to implement their new action plan and lessen the impact of natural disasters.

Indonesia: Waste Management

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what expertise the UK has shared with Indonesia on effective and safe disposal of household waste. [159189]

Mr. Malik: Waste disposal forms part of the reconstruction work DFID is funding in Aceh and Nias. DFID's support through the UNDP Tsunami Waste Management Programme has included technical training for local government bodies on municipal solid waste collection and transportation, landfill operation, and community education in environmental issues and waste management.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid the UK gave to *(a)* Jamaica, *(b)* Nigeria and *(c)* Pakistan in each of the last five years. [160044]

Mr. Malik: Information on UK aid to Jamaica, Nigeria and Pakistan is available in the DFID publication 'Statistics on International Development 2007'. This publication is available online at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Relevant figures are reproduced in the following tables:

Table 1: UK Total Bilateral Gross Public Expenditure on Development, 2002-03 to 2006-07[4]

	Nigeria	Jamaica	£000 Pakistan
2002-03	29,287	8,614	46,852
2003-04	32,630	5,367	66,299
2004-05	73,076	9,677	55,277
2005-06[1]	1,227,717	9,521	97,688
2006-07[1]	1,750,694	8,530	118,150

[1] Expenditure to Nigeria in 2005-06 and 2006-07 includes large sums of debt relief of £1,135 million and £1,649 million respectively.

Table 2: Imputed UK Share of Multilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA), 2001-05

	Nigeria	Jamaica	£000 Pakistan
2001	4,232	3,721	63,878
2002	4,309	4,678	28,343
2003	9,394	1,437	34,391
2004	10,425	5,864	27,729
2005	31,073	1,421	43,968

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on the humanitarian situation in Darfur. [158764]

Mr. Thomas: The humanitarian situation in Darfur continues to deteriorate. The steady rise in violence this year has seen a further 260,000 people displaced, adding to the more than 2 million people already living in camps across the region. Many of the main camps are now well over capacity and there are real concerns regarding communicable diseases and access to adequate water.

Instances of malnutrition have been on the increase and while aid agencies have made courageous efforts to address emerging needs, the quality of humanitarian assistance is decreasing as regular and consistent access to those in need is undermined by the widespread insecurity.

Bureaucratic impediments on agencies operating in Darfur have been reduced due to the implementation of a UN-Government of Sudan Joint Communiqué, though this has to be seen against the escalation of attacks by armed groups against humanitarian agencies and the consequent scaling down of their operations.

The UK is prominent in urging all sides to immediately cease hostilities, attend the proposed peace talks in Libya and respect the neutrality of humanitarian workers.

Windward Islands: Overseas Aid

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid he has allocated to the Windward Islands in relation to the summer hurricanes; what financial assistance he plans to make available in respect of the loss of the August 2007 to January 2008 banana crop and related unemployment; and if he will make a statement. [159862]

Mr. Malik: DFID provided £166,000 to Oxfam-GB to assist 1,630 farmers and vulnerable families in Dominica and Saint Lucia. 700 Fairtrade banana farmers will receive cash for farm rehabilitation.

DFID has contributed another £367,000 through European Commission (EC) contributions to relief efforts in the Caribbean as a whole.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Civil Servants: Vetting

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of the HM Government Baseline Personnel Security Standards for vetting staff with Criminal Records Bureau checks. [158191]

Edward Miliband: I have today placed in the Library a copy of "HMG Baseline Personnel Security Standard—A Good Practice Guide to the Pre-Employment Screening of Government Staff and Contractors".

This document describes good practice in recruitment checks that should be adopted for all new recruits to the civil service, armed forces, temporary staff and Government contractors generally. The Standard itself requires verification of identity, employment history, nationality and immigration status and any unspent criminal record. In respect of unspent criminal record, all recruits are required to make a self-declaration.

Departments: Buildings

Mr. Simon: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many people will be working in the office building at 35 Great Smith street; [159175]

(2) if he will make a statement on the planned use of the office building at 35 Great Smith street. [159176]

Gillian Merron: Approximately 140 people are permanently based in 35 Great Smith street. The current occupants are the Ceremonial Secretariat, the Office of the Third Sector, the Independent Offices and the Committee on Standards in Public Life as well as staff from the facilities management and IT contractors. In addition, a crisis management facility is also located in the building. The Cabinet Office has no present plans to change the use of this building.

Departments: Consultants

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will list the contracts his Department signed on a consultancy basis with a net value of more than £20,000 in 2006. [159318]

Edward Miliband *[holding answer 18 October 2007]:* The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and may not be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departments: Contracts

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many invitations to tender the Cabinet Office has issued since June 2001; and for what purpose in each case. [158683]

Edward Miliband: The information requested for the Cabinet office is not readily available and may not be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departments: Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance his Department follows on the maximum time taken to respond to hon. Members' correspondence; and what performance against that target was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [158602]

Edward Miliband: The Cabinet Office publishes guidance for Departments on 'Handling Correspondence from Members of Parliament, Members of the House of Lords, MEPs, and Members of Devolved Assemblies'. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House and it is also available on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/upload/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/correspondence.pdf

The Cabinet Office also publishes on an annual basis, a report on Departments' and agencies performance on handling Members, and Peers, correspondence. This includes the target set by each Department to reply to hon. Members, the number of letters received and the percentage of replies within target. The last report for 2006 was published by the then Minister for the Cabinet Office (Hilary Armstrong) on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 101-04WS.

Departments: Departmental Organisation

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) whether he plans to make structural changes within his Department; [149273]

(2) if he will place in the Library an organogram showing the staff structure of 10 Downing street and the Cabinet Office; [149274]

(3) what the membership is of the Cabinet Office board. [151262]

Edward Miliband: A copy of the Department's organogram has been placed in the Library of the House. It includes details of board members and the current structure of the Cabinet Office. Information regarding staff in 10 Downing street is published in Dod's Civil Service Companion and on the No. 10 website.

Departments: Legal Opinion

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost to the public purse has been of legal fees and advice for *(a)* the previous Prime Minister, *(b)* Downing Street staff and *(c)* special advisers in relation to the recent police investigation into honours. [158686]

Edward Miliband: The Government have always made clear that the cost to Government of legal advice for their employees in connection with the police inquiry into honours will be published in due course.

In relation to the previous Prime Minister, I would refer the right hon. Gentleman to the statements made by the Prime Minister's Official Spokesman on this subject which can be accessed at:

http://www.pm.gov.uk/output/Page12038.asp

Departments: Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people were employed by his Department on 1 January in each of the last five years; and how many of these staff were *(a)* permanent employees, *(b)* temporary staff and *(c)* contractors. [158320]

Edward Miliband: The information is as follows:

	Employees (FTE)			
	Permanent	*Temporary*	*Contractors (FTE)*	*Total (FTE)*
2007	1,456	28	8	1,492
2006	1,726	35	4	1,765
2005	1,889	39	2	1,930
2004	1,960	50	[1]—	2,010
2003	1,850	50	[1]—	1,900

[1] Data not available.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many full-time equivalent staff are employed by *(a)* the Prime Minister's Downing street offices and *(b)* offices of the Prime Minister which are classified as part of (i) the Cabinet Office separate from Downing street and (ii) HM Treasury. [158682]

Edward Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Prime Minister on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 819-20W.

The Cabinet Office consists of many units, including the Prime Minister's office.

There are no offices of the Prime Minister, which are classified as part of the Cabinet Office, separate from the Prime Minister's office.

The Cabinet Office does not hold figures relating to HM Treasury.

Departments: Speeches

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance the Cabinet Office has produced on assistance to Ministers in the preparation of speeches at party conferences by civil servants who are not special advisers. [158685]

Edward Miliband: In advance of the annual party conference season, the Cabinet Secretary issued guidance to Departments on civil servants' involvement in such conferences. A copy of the letter circulated to Departments on 27 July 2007 has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what plans exist to use *(a)* regular and *(b)* reserve elements of the armed forces in support of security at the 2012 Olympic Games. [158243]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have not received any proposals on the use of the armed forces in support of the security of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. We will consider any such proposals carefully should they arrive. Policing in the UK is carried out with the consent and co-operation of the community. We would not want to interfere with these long established policing traditions of which we are justly proud.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what plans exist to use non-UK *(a)* police forces and *(b)* military units in support of security of the 2012 Olympic Games. [158244]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have not received any proposals on the use of non-UK police forces or military units in support of security of the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. We will consider any such proposals carefully should they arrive. Policing in the UK is carried out with the consent and co-operation of the community. We would not want to interfere with these long established policing traditions of which we are justly proud.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the *(a)* bid book estimate, *(b)* bid book estimate adjusted to 2012 prices and *(c)* current estimate is for (i) the main Olympic stadium, (ii) the Velodrome and (iii) the Aquatic Centre. [158727]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* The information requested is set out in the table, except for the current estimated costs of the Velodrome and the Aquatics Centre, which are commercially confidential at present as the Olympic Delivery Authority are in negotiations with potential bidders for the construction of these are in venues.

Venue	*Bid book estimate at 2004 prices (US $ million)*	*Bid book estimate at 2004 prices converted to sterling $1:£1.6 (£ million)*	*Bid book estimate adjusted to 2012 prices (£ million)*	*Approved forecast (including VAT, contingency and legacy transformation costs (£ million)*
Main Olympic stadium	450	[1]282	[1]387	496
Velodrome	46	29	40	n/a
Aquatics Centre	117	73	100	n/a

[1] These figures exclude VAT, additional contingency and legacy transformation costs all of which are included within the Approved forecast. Legacy transformation was estimated at £89 million at 2004 prices spread across the Olympic park venues.

Planning Permission: Air Conditioning

Mr. Simon: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will publish departmental guidelines on obtaining planning permission for the installation of air conditioning units in Government buildings. [159177]

Gillian Merron: The Cabinet Office seeks planning permission where this is required by the local planning authority, which will generally be consulted to determine whether an application is required or not, including in relation to the installation of air conditioning units.

Strategic Priorities for the UK

Mr. Allen: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the proposals in the Strategy Unit's Strategic Priorities for the UK: the Policy Review are under review. [159324]

Edward Miliband: The Strategy Unit's 'Strategic Priorities for the UK: The Policy Review' was published as a background paper to inform the Policy Review programme, the conclusions of which are set out in a series of papers available on the Cabinet Office website. The findings from the Policy Review have been feeding into a range of Government business including the comprehensive spending review, PSA targets and departmental plans and strategies.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

EU Reform: Treaties

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Czech counterpart on the proposed EU Reform Treaty. [159160]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary is in frequent contact with all his EU counterparts, including the Czech Foreign Minister, on a wide range of issues, including the proposed EU Reform Treaty.

Mr. Quentin Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the Dutch State Council's report on the EU Reform Treaty. [160031]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government welcome the Netherlands Council of State advice on the Reform Treaty. The Council of State is an independent, respected and authoritative body. It offers the Dutch government expert legal opinion on legislation.

The Council of State's opinion, delivered on 12 September, emphasises the differences between the Constitutional Treaty and the proposed Reform Treaty. According to the Council:

"Unlike the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe, it (the Reform Treaty) provides no arguments for a gradual expansion of the EU towards a more explicit state or federation.

The purpose of these changes, taken together, is to rid the proposed Reform Treaty as far as possible of the elements from the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe which could have formed a basis for the development of the EU into a more explicit state or federation.

All this means that the proposed Reform Treaty is substantially different from the Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe".

This advice reflects the agreement by all 27 member states that the constitutional concept has been "abandoned".

Copies of the English translation of the Dutch Council of State advice have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Foreigners: Honours

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether foreign citizens who are made honorary knights or dames are entitled to use the titles associated with those honours used by British recipients. [157157]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The bestowal of an honorary award at Class I or II level does not confer the title 'Sir' or 'Dame' on the holder. The appropriate post-nominal letters, e.g. 'Knight of the British Empire', 'Dame of the British Empire', may, however, be used, subject to the rules laid down by the authorities of the recipient's country. It is for the recipients to inform themselves of the rules.

Gaza: Poverty

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent estimate he has made of *(a)* poverty and *(b)* unemployment levels in Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [159564]

Mr. Malik: I have been asked to reply.

DFID relies on agencies with a presence in Gaza for humanitarian and poverty updates and does not duplicate these by adding its own regular assessments. For example, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) and the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO) closely monitor the humanitarian situation and produce regular reports. UNOCHA reports that 87 per cent. of Gazans live below the poverty line of $2.40 daily income.

The Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics reports that unemployment for Gaza was 32.3 per cent. over the period April to June 2007. However, this figure is an underestimate as it does not include large numbers who have turned to unpaid family labour, are in seasonal employment or who have left the labour force when they could not find work. In addition, the World Bank reported in September that the closure of trade in and out of Gaza has significantly increased redundancies. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) estimates that an additional 10 per cent. of employees would like to work more hours if this were possible.

House of Europe

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions his Department has had with the European Commission on the establishment of a House of Europe in London; and if he will make a statement. [158450]

Mr. Jim Murphy: There have been no discussions between the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the European Commission regarding the establishment of a House of Europe in London.

The European Commission and the European Parliament currently have separate office premises in London. The leases on both buildings are set to end within 12 to 18 months. The Commission and Parliament are currently considering whether to move into a suitable building together.

The practice of sharing office premises exists in most member states.

Iraq: Armed Forces

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, pursuant to the answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 255W, on Iraq: armed forces, what changes were made to plans agreed before the invasion as a consequence of the flexibility to take full account of developments on the ground; and if he will make a statement. [159519]

Dr. Howells: The details of planning remain confidential. Planning was reviewed on a regular basis and adapted in light of developments on the ground in Iraq and taking into account the views of the Iraqi people, who had suffered under Saddam Hussein's regime for 35 years.

I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 255W.

Iraq: Foreign Relations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals have been put forward for the creation of an international contact group for Iraq with a permanent secretariat; and what the UK's policy is on the proposals. [157383]

David Miliband: The creation of a Contact Group or similar initiative has previously been suggested by, among others, the UN and the Iraq Study Group.

However, the Government of Iraq is clear that it should lead international discussions on Iraq and is doing so through the Neighbours process. We welcome that leadership, and the invitation it extended earlier this year to key members of the international community to participate. We believe that the Neighbours process is the primary international, multilateral mechanism for establishing co-operation between Iraq and its neighbours. We also welcome the UN Secretary-General's announcement at the High Level meeting on Iraq in New York on 22 September that the UN will help establish a permanent secretariat in support of regional co-operation.

Iraq: Young People

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much was committed by the UK to projects aimed at young people in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq in each of the last five years. [158842]

Mr. Malik: I have been asked to reply.

DFID supports the Government of Afghanistan to deliver services to children and young people, including £55 million this year to fund the recurrent budget, which pays salaries of teachers and doctors. It is not possible to attribute an exact figure for funding which benefited young people, since, for example, health sector funding provides benefits for all age groups. However, the following table sets out our total contribution to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF) for the last five years, and the estimated amount of this, which went to support the education budget:

£ million

Financial year	*ARTF unpreferenced funding*	*Amount supporting education*[1]
2002-03	15	4.5
2003-04	30	9
2004-05	45	13.5
2005-06	45	13.5
2006-07	50	15

1 Around one-third each year.

In addition, DFID Afghanistan has committed £42 million (2003-10) to the Government of Afghanistan's National Solidarity Programme, which funds communities' own priority projects including health clinics, schools, and wells—all of which benefit young people.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has allocated £330,500 to projects that benefit young people in Afghanistan between 2004-05 and 2007-08. Examples of these projects include teacher training, vocational training and informal schooling for children who have not had access to the formal education system. And in 2006-07, the UK spent £6.2 million on Quick Impact Projects in Helmand, to improve local facilities, including £645,000 ($1.29 million) on schools and parks, which benefit young people.

We have not specifically supported projects aimed at young people in Iraq. Our programme has focussed on supporting economic reform, governance and institutional building, providing essential infrastructure in southern Iraq, supporting civil society and political participation and addressing humanitarian needs. Since 2002-03, DFID has disbursed the following on bilateral assistance to Iraq:

£ million

Financial Year	*Reconstruction and Development Assistance*	*Humanitarian Assistance*	*Total DFID Bilateral Programme*
2002-03	0	18.8	18.8
2003-04	99.3	110	209.3
2004-05	27.7m	21.4	49.1
2005-06	82.1	4.8	86.9
2006-07	39.5	10.1	49.6
Total	248.6	165.1	413.7

Israel: Syria

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he was informed of the recent Israeli attack on the alleged Syrian military installation; and what representations he has made to the Israeli Government on the attack. [159427]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary was informed by officials about the Israeli air strike on Syria on the afternoon of 6 September. The Israeli authorities confirmed on 2 October that Israeli aircraft had attacked a military target inside Syrian territory on 6 September. Our embassy in Tel Aviv has been in touch with the Israeli Government about the incident.

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications of the Israeli attack on Syria on or about 6 September. [159428]

Dr. Howells: The Israeli authorities confirmed on 2 October that Israeli aircraft attacked a military target inside Syrian territory on 6 September. The implications of the incident will depend on how both sides choose to respond. We welcome the restraint they have shown.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with Mr. Blair as Middle East Envoy on *(a)* Libya's approach to the Arab League's initiative on peace in the Middle East and *(b)* Mr. Blair's last visit to Libya in 2007. [159432]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had discussions with the right hon. Tony Blair about the Middle East Peace Process, including the Arab Peace Initiative. However, the meeting did not touch on Libya's approach to the Arab Peace Initiative or the right hon. Tony Blair's visit to Libya in May 2007.

Occupied Territories: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps have been taken to include the issue of the occupation of the Golan Heights in the proposed November peace conference. [159426]

Dr. Howells: The agenda of the November meeting has not been finalised. As set out by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to the House on 8 October, *Official Report*, column 24 we hope that the November meeting will result in an agreement that puts the Israelis and Palestinians on a path to real negotiations in 2008 leading to a final settlement of two states living side by side in peace and security. We have made clear our hope that the meeting advances comprehensive peace in the region. Syria has yet to confirm its attendance. We continue to support a comprehensive peace, including between Israel and Syria, as called for in the Roadmap.

Republic of Ireland: Honours

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether titles awarded to citizens of the Irish Republic are deemed to be honorary in circumstances where the recipient was born after *(a)* 29 December 1937, *(b)* 21 December 1948 and *(c)* 18 April 1949. [157156]

Mr. Jim Murphy: A non-British citizen can inherit a British "title" which would not be honorary, but he/she may lose some of the rights that go with it. The country of his citizenship may also lay down conditions.

In the British honours system, substantive awards are given to British nationals and nationals of realm countries where Her Majesty the Queen is Head of State. The nationality at the time of the award is relevant, not the person's nationality at the time of his or her birth. A British honorary award can be given to non-British citizens or subjects. In the case of Ireland, a person can only retain British subject status if he/she was born before 1 January 1949. Individuals born after 29 December 1937 and 21 December 1948, but before 1 January 1949 would have retained British subject status if they notified the Secretary of State of their intention to remain a British subject. Someone born in Ireland on or after 18 April 1949 could not be a British subject.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Police

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the police force of the Turks and Caicos Islands was last inspected by HM Inspectorate; and if he will place a copy of the Inspectorate's report in the Library. [157210]

Dr. Howells: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply my right hon. Friend the then Minister for Europe (Mr. Hoon) gave to him on 1 February, *Official Report*, column 498W.

Although Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary has in the past conducted inspections of police forces of overseas territories, there is no record of one being carried out in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

However, in November 1988 and August 2000 the Royal Turks and Caicos police force were reviewed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office/Overseas Development Administration (now the Department for International Development) overseas police advisers, in their capacity as Inspector General of the Overseas Territory Police Forces.

Turks and Caicos Islands: Population

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the change in the level of the resident population of the Turks and Caicos Islands was over the past 20 years, broken down by those who were *(a)* UK subjects, *(b)* belongers and *(c)* foreign nationals. [157211]

Dr. Howells: The Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) Government has provided the following information on its resident population. No information is available for the number of UK subjects in the TCI.

	Total population	*UK subjects*[1]	*Belongers*	*Non-belongers*
1980	7,413	n/a	n/a	n/a
1990	11,465	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001	19,886	n/a	10,335	9,551
2002	20,900	n/a	10,603	10,297
2003	25,143	n/a	10,800	14,263
2004	27,496	n/a	11,162	16,334
2005	30,602	n/a	11,452	19,150
2006	33,202	n/a	11,750	21,452

n/a = not available.

[1] This information is not held by the TCI authorities.

HEALTH

Antibiotics: Animals

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the implications for human health of the prevalence of antibiotic *(a)* use and *(b)* resistance in farm animals. [158241]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

DEFRA's Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) work very closely with colleagues in Department of Health, the Health Protection Agency and the Food Standards Agency on the implications of the use of antimicrobials in farm animals. There is increasing scientific support for the view that the increase in antimicrobial resistance affecting human health is largely the result of the prescribing of these products by the medical profession and their use in humans. However, it is recognised that the use of antimicrobials in animals has some impact on the occurrence of resistance genes in micro-organisms.

The Government recognise that veterinary medicines, including antimicrobials, are required to ensure healthy food animals in the UK, but believes that their use should not replace good farm management and animal husbandry systems. The Government believe that antimicrobials should be used responsibly in food animal production and has issued guidelines for their responsible use. The VMD produced a document entitled 'Code of Practice on the Responsible Use of Animal Medicines on the Farm'. The industry's Responsible Use of Medicines in

Agriculture Alliance (RUMA) has also published responsible use guidelines for antimicrobials that have been adopted by assurance schemes for the five major food-producing species.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the use in livestock production of antibiotics of last resort for humans; and if he will make a statement. [158242]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

DEFRA's Veterinary Medicines Directorate works very closely with the Department of Health, the Health Protection Agency and the Food Standards Agency on these issues. Under legislation implementing EU requirements, veterinary medicines, including those containing antimicrobials, require authorisation before they may be marketed or administered to animals. Authorisations are only issued where scientific assessment of data provided by the applicant demonstrates that the product adequately meets statutory criteria of safety, quality and efficacy when used in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Safety in this context includes consumers of produce from treated animals as well as the treated animal, other animals with which it may come into contact, people handling the product and the treated animal, and the environment. Antimicrobials authorised for therapeutic use are prescription only medicines and can only be supplied and administered in accordance with a veterinary surgeon's prescription.

Antimicrobials used as a last resort in humans represent only a small proportion of the total amount of antimicrobials used in livestock production. For example, 1 tonne of fluoroquinolones were sold for livestock production in 2005. This amount represents 0.27 per cent. of the total amount of antimicrobials sold for use in livestock production. Similarly, in 2005, 1.1 tonnes of cephalosporins were sold. This amount represents 0.28 per cent. of the total amount of antimicrobials sold for use in livestock production.

Baby Care Units: Admissions

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many admissions there were to neonatal units in England in each year from 2002 to 2006; and if he will make a statement. [159204]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. However, information is in the following table on the number of finished consultant episodes (FCE) where neonatal care was provided in a specialist unit. This is not equivalent to the number of babies requiring care in a specialist unit. A baby may have had more than one FCE of neonatal care in a specialist unit.

Count of FCE where neonatal care was provided in a specialist unit, 2001-02 to 2005-06, national health service hospitals, England

	Special care	*Level 2 intensive care*	*Level 1 intensive care*	*Total episodes*
2005-06				
General episode	18,598	3,475	4,394	68,661
Birth episode	31,936	4,062	6,196	
Total	50,534	7,537	10,590	
2004-05				
General episode	17,202	2,854	4,020	64,746
Birth episode	31,121	4,069	5,480	
Total	48,323	6,923	9,500	
2003-04				
General episode	18,259	3,160	4,063	63,951
Birth episode	28,946	4,400	5,123	
Total	47,205	7,560	9,186	
2002-03				
General episode	15,062	2,784	3,516	59,730
Birth episode	28,884	4,421	5,063	
Total	43,946	7,205	8,579	
2001-02				
General episode	19,763	2,956	3,962	65,841
Birth episode	28,756	4,305	6,099	
Total	48,519	7,261	10,061	

Notes:

Definitions of neonatal care provided in specialist units

Special care:

Care given in a special nursery, transitional care ward or postnatal ward, which provides care and treatment exceeding normal routine care. Some aspects of special care can be undertaken by a mother supervised by qualified nursing staff. Special nursing care includes support for and education of the infant's parents.

Level 2 intensive care: (high dependency intensive care):

Care given in an intensive or special care nursery, which provides continuous skilled supervision by qualified and specially trained nursing staff who may care for more babies than in level 1 intensive care. Care includes support for the infant's parents.

Level 1 intensive care: (maximal intensive care):

Care given in an intensive or special care nursery, which provides continuous skilled supervision by qualified and specially trained nursing and medical staff. Care includes support for the infant's parents.

Definitions of general and birth episodes

General episode:

A general episode is any episode which is not covered under other episode types. Other episode types include birth episodes, delivery episodes, patients formally detained under the provisions mental health legislation or long-term psychiatric patients, other birth events and other delivery events.

Birth episode:

A birth episode is the hospital episode that commences at birth. If a baby is transferred from another episode or re-admitted to hospital after discharge, this new episode will not be classified as a birth episode, regardless of the age of the baby.

FCE

An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

Data quality

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Ungrossed data

Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).

Source:

HES, the Information Centre for health and social care.

Clostridium: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *clostridium difficile* there were in hospitals in each London constituency in each of the last five years. [158789]

Ann Keen: Acute national health service trusts in England have been obliged to report all cases of *Clostridium difficile* associated disease in people age 65 years and over since January 2004. The latest data were published in July 2007.

The number of cases in acute NHS trusts in London region for the calendar years 2004, 2005 and 2006 are in the following table.

These data are not available by parliamentary constituency.

	Number of C. difficile reports for patients = 65 years
2004	6,065
2005	7,358
2006	7,361

Source:
Health Protection Agency—provisional data.

Clostridium: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many cases of *Clostridium difficile* there were in hospitals in Lancashire in each of the last five years; [159256]

(2) how many patients in Lancashire hospitals were successfully treated for *Clostridium difficile* in each of the last five years. [159257]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the requested format. Cases of *Clostridium difficile* in people aged 65 or over were recorded under a mandatory surveillance system which commenced in January 2004. From April 2007, surveillance has been extended to cover cases in all patients aged two and above.

The information in the following table shows cases in national health service trusts in the former Cumbria and Lancashire strategic health authority.

Number of Clostridium difficile reports in patients aged 65 or over

	January to December		
NHS trust	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
East Lancashire Hospitals	220	152	243
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals	279	271	341
Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre	352	389	428
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay	80	180	289
North Cumbria Acute Hospitals	112	212	254

Source:
Health Protection Agency

Information on the number of patients successfully treated for *Clostridium difficile* is not collected centrally.

Hospitals: Disease Control

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of best practice in hospital infection control in the UK private hospital sector. [158490]

Ann Keen: The Department regulates independent health care providers via the Care Standards Act 2000 and the Private and Voluntary Health Care (England) Regulations 2001.

The Private and Voluntary Health Care Regulations contain a number of provisions to combat the spread of infection in the independent health care sector. Assessment of this is the responsibility of the Healthcare Commission. However, good infection control practices are the same in both sectors.

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people contracted MRSA or *clostridium difficile* in *(a)* NHS hospitals, *(b)* military hospitals and *(c)* private sector UK hospitals in 2006. [158493]

Ann Keen: The requested information is not available and the best data are from the mandatory surveillance system operated by the Health Protection Agency.

All acute national health service trusts in England have been required to report from April 2001 all cases of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bloodstream infections and from January 2004 all cases of Clostridium difficile infections (CDI) in people aged 65 years and over.

Data for MRSA bloodstream infections are available by financial year and for the period April 2006 to March 2007 there were 6,378 reports. Data for CDI are available by calendar year and from January to December 2006 there were 55,634 reports.

Military and private sector hospitals are not included in the mandatory system.

MRSA: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of MRSA there were in hospitals in each London constituency in each of the last five years. [158790]

Ann Keen: The information is not held in the format requested, as data are not available by constituency.

However, all national health service trusts in England have been obliged to report all cases of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bloodstream infections since April 2001, with the latest data published in July 2007.

The MRSA data for those trusts in London for the last five years are summarised in the following table.:

MRSA bacteraemias; London (that is within London Strategic Health Authority: April 2002 to March 2007)

April to March each year	*Number of bacteraemias*
2002-03	1,707
2003-04	1,682
2004-05	1,392
2005-06	1,320

MRSA bacteraemias; London (that is within London Strategic Health Authority: April 2002 to March 2007)

April to March each year	*Number of bacteraemias*
2006-07	1,20[illegible]

Source:
Health Protection Agency.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departments: Fixed Penalties

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many fixed penalty tickets were incurred by vehicles within the purview of his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the total cost was. [157867]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions is not responsible for any fines or penalties incurred by persons using a departmental vehicle. The driver of a vehicle at the time an offence is committed is legally responsible to pay any fine, receive penalty points or any other sanction the law imposes.

Departments: ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistant devices bought for the use of departmental Ministers have been returned to the Department following each Cabinet reshuffle since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [156732]

Mrs. McGuire: The information requested could be supplied only at disproportionate costs. Ministers and staff are provided with equipment from the Department's central IT supplier. These are returned to the Department if a Minister leaves.

Departments: Secondment

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff are seconded to his Department from outside Government; from which outside body each has been seconded; and what the length is of each secondment. [157868]

Mrs. McGuire: The information can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on overseas travel in each of the last three years. [152689]

Mrs. McGuire: This information can be obtained only for the period commencing December 2005 to July 2007 (except rail, where the data is only available from June 2006).

		£
	December 2005—November 2006	*December 2006—July 2007*
Total	707,425	632,586

All data includes EU travel.

The information for the remaining period can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Employment: Speech Impaired

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what publicly-funded assistance is provided to help people with a severe stammer to gain and retain employment. [159274]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 18 October 2007]:* People with a serious stammer are able to make use of the mainstream job placing services provided by Jobcentre Plus. For those who cannot be helped by these services, however, Jobcentre Plus provides a range of specialist disability measures via Disability Employment Advisers (DEAs) and Incapacity Benefit personal advisers.

DEAs are trained to help people with a range of disabilities and health conditions consider work, take up work and also retain their jobs. The DEA focuses on customers who need more extensive support because of their health condition. They concentrate on making their customer aware of their capabilities and how to overcome their own particular barriers in the workplace. If a customer is concerned about losing their current job because of their health condition the DEA can advocate on the customer's behalf and explore practical ways to help them keep their job, with the employer. The DEA also has access to work psychologists to assist them in supporting customers if appropriate.

People with a serious stammer may make use of the Access to Work programme. They can be helped by a support worker in a number of ways, for example as a job coach, mentor, advocate or counsellor. Customers can access Communication Support at Interview. This helps with the costs of employing an interpreter or communicator to accompany a customer attending a job interview, where the customer would experience difficulties in understanding or making themselves understood. This element is used primarily by hearing-impaired customers, but is open to anyone with a disability affecting their ability to communicate.

WORKSTEP is a programme of supported employment which can provide tailored support to find, and retain, jobs for people with disabilities who have more complex barriers to finding and keeping work. WORKSTEP provides the support and opportunity for people to progress to open employment where this is the right option Work Preparation is an individually tailored, work-focused programme that enables people to address barriers associated with their disability and prepare to access a labour market with the confidence necessary to achieve and sustain their job goal. It can also be used to help people who are at risk of losing their job because of their disability by helping them to overcome difficulties that are affecting their work.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average weekly expenditure is on jobseeker's allowance claimants, excluding the benefit, by Jobcentre Plus *(a)* for the first three months and *(b)* thereafter. [160081]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available.

Local Authorities: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what targets his Department sets for local authorities, including under the public service agreement, local area agreement and best value performance indicator regimes, on the *(a)* number of benefit awards and *(b)* number of unclaimed benefits. [158143]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

Neither Communities and Local Government nor the Department for Work and Pensions sets targets for local authorities on the number of benefit awards and the number of unclaimed benefits. Local authorities may, if they wish, include targets on these issues in their local area agreements (including for Reward) which are agreed with central Government.

National Insurance: Foreign Workers

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will give a breakdown by nationality of the number of national insurance numbers issued to non-EU foreign citizens *(a)* since 1997 and *(b)* since 1 January 2004. [157940]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* Information is not available prior to 5 April 2002. The available information broken down by country of origin has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many foreign nationals in *(a)* Reading, *(b)* Wokingham and *(c)* Berkshire were issued with national insurance numbers in (i) the last year for which figures are available and (ii) each of the preceding four years. [159508]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available prior to 2004. Information is not available at county level. The available information is in the following table.

National insurance number registrations in respect of non-UK nationals in Reading and Wokingham local authority areas

Year of registration	*Reading*	*Wokingham*
2004-05	2,450	630
2005-06	3,900	820
2006-07	4,290	980

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Numbers are based on 100 per cent. data from the National Insurance Recording System (NIRS).
4. Local authority is assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.
5. Local authority counts are based on the most recently recorded address of the NINO recipient.

Source:
100 per cent. sample at 25 June 2005, 17 June 2006 and 14 May 2007 from the National Insurance Recording System

Occupational Pensions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people who have been members of occupational pension schemes which have been closed *(a)* to new members and *(b)* completely since 1997. [152617]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is presented in the following table:

Active members in closed occupational schemes

	2000	*2004*	*2005*	*million 2006*
Public sector	0.0	0.0	—	0.4
Private sector	0.6	1.9	1.7	1.8
Total	0.6	1.9	—	2.2

Notes:
[1] All figures are estimates and are taken from the Occupational Pension Scheme Survey, years 2006, 2005, 2004 and 2000. Data for years 2000 to 2005 inclusive were produced by the Government Actuary's Department (GAD). Data from 2006 were produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). 2006 is the latest year published. The coverage of the survey is the UK.
[2] Unlike other years the 2005 survey only covered private sector schemes.
[3] Results may not sum to totals shown due to rounding.
[4] In 2005 data was not collected for public sector schemes or the total.

Source:
Occupational Pension Schemes Survey

Older Workers

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged 50 years and over moved off benefits and into work in each of the last 10 years. [159621]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Pensioners: Females

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many women pensioners in each five-year age cohort would receive an additional weekly pension increase of *(a)* less than £5, *(b)* £5 to £9.99, *(c)* £10 to £14.99, *(d)* £15 to £19.99 and *(e)* £20 or more in 2010 if the reduction in qualifying years for a full pension were extended to them. [158604]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Pensioners: Glasgow

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females living in Glasgow, East constituency are drawing state retirement p ion. [160057]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As at February 2007, there were 5,210 male and 9,760 female recipients of State Pension in Glasgow, East parliamentary constituency.

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied.

2. Parliamentary Constituencies are those used for the Westminster parliament.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Pensioners: Means Tested Benefits

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number and proportion of pensioners subject to some form of means testing for a part of their income. [159615]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Latest available information relates to 2004. This shows that there were 3.74 million beneficiaries aged 60 and over of income related benefits, 30 per cent. of the population of this age group.

Pensioners: Poverty

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the level of pensioner poverty in Ochil and South Perthshire since 2005; [159311]

(2) what estimate he has made of the level of pensioner poverty in Clackmannanshire in each year since 1997; [159312]

(3) what assessment he has made of the likely effect of measures announced in the recent pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review on pensioner poverty in Ochil and South Perthshire; [159313]

(4) what assessment he has made of the likely effect of measures announced in the recent pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review upon pensioner poverty in Scotland. [159279]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Specific information regarding low income is available in 'Households Below Average Income 1994-95 to 2005-06 (Revised)', a copy of which has been placed in the Library. The threshold of below 60 per cent. contemporary median income is the most commonly used in reporting trends in low income.

The data source does not allow us to provide robust numbers for estimates below a regional level. Therefore estimates for Ochil and South Perthshire and for Clackmannanshire are not available. Instead, information on the numbers of pensioners in households with low incomes in Scotland for the period 1997-98 to 2005-06 is presented in the following table.

Number and percentage of pensioners in Scotland living in households below 60 per cent. median income after housing costs

	Thousand	*Percentage*
1997-98	250	28
1998-99	230	27
1999-2000	250	28
2000-01	220	25
2001-02	210	24
2002-03	220	25
2003-04	180	21
2004-05	150	16
2005-06	150	16

Notes:

1. The table shows number of pensioners in thousands—rounded to nearest 10 thousand.

2. Low income is determined for pensioners as living in households with incomes below 60 per cent. of the UK median after housing costs.

Source:

Scottish Households Below Average Income 2005-06—revised

Our policies have been effective in tackling pensioner poverty and now, for the first time ever in a period of sustained economic growth, pensioners are less likely to be in poverty than the population as a whole. Since 1997 over one million pensioners have been lifted out of relative poverty, including approximately 90 thousand pensioners (rounded to the nearest ten thousand) in Scotland.

Minimum income guarantee and pension credit, winter fuel payments and a 7 per cent. real terms increase in the value of the basic state pension have all contributed to improving pensioner incomes. The announcement in the pre-Budget report to increase pension credit standard minimum guarantee to £124 a week for single pensioners (£189 a week for couples) in 2008-09, and commitment to uprate it in line with earnings over the long term, demonstrates our continued commitment to tackling pensioner poverty.

A new public service agreement 'Tackle poverty and promote greater independence in later life' was published as part of the comprehensive spending review on 9 October 2007. This clearly demonstrates that tackling the problems of low income among older people remains a key government priority.

The Scottish government is also tackling pensioner poverty in Scotland, in partnership with the UK Government. It is promoting benefit uptake through the benefits health checks offered as part of the free central heating programme, and funding of the Scottish helpline for older people. Its central heating programme, free Scotland-wide bus travel, and free personal and nursing care are complementing measures provided by the UK Government.

Pensions: Financial Assistance Scheme

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made in finding additional funding to improve the Financial Assistance Scheme; and if he will make a statement. [159828]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We await the report of Andrew Young which we have asked him to bring forward from the end of this year to November 2007.

The Government will set out the details of their approach to further funding once that report has been published.

State Retirement Pensions: Overseas Residence

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many International Pension Centre clients are the spouse or dependent of a UK citizen. [157845]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not held in the form requested.

Winter Fuel Payments

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the cost of the winter fuel allowance has been in each year since the scheme was established; [160361]

(2) what the estimated cost of the winter fuel allowance is in *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10, *(d)* 2010-11 and *(e)* 2011-12. [160360]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is in the following tables:

Total cost and planned expenditure on winter fuel payments paid out in Great Britain since the scheme was established

Outturn years	*Cash terms (£ million)*
1997-98	191
1998-99	194
1999-2000	759
2000-01	1,749
2001-02	1,681
2002-03	1,705
2003-04	1,916
2004-05	1,962
2005-06	1,982
2006-07	2,015

Forecast years	*Cash terms (£ million)*
2007-08	2,059
2008-09	2,102
2009-10	2,137
2010-11	2,145

Notes:

Notes:

1. Figures are consistent with the comprehensive spending review and are rounded to the nearest £ million.
2. Winter fuel payment was introduced in 1997.
3. Payments made to people aged 60 to 64 years and over 80 payments are included from 2000-01 onwards. Following a European Court of Justice judgment in 1999, winter fuel payments were extended to people aged 60 or over regardless of whether they were receiving a social security benefit. A claims process was set up in the year 2000 to enable payments to be made to those people who could not be identified through the Department's records.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audit Commission: Expenditure

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the administrative cost was of the Audit Commission in each year since 1996. [157643]

John Healey: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 19 October 2007:

Your Parliamentary Question on the administrative costs of the Audit Commission since 1996 has been passed to me for reply.

It is very difficult to answer questions about administrative costs in the absence of any clear definition of this term. The definition of administrative costs employed within central government is not applicable to the Commission as the Commission does not have programmes run by third parties, and therefore all our expenditure is incurred in support of our statutory duties as set out in the Audit Commission Act 1998. I attach a schedule setting out our total costs since 1996.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Annex

The Audit Commission's costs since 1996 are as follows:

Year end	*Period length (months)*	*Total (£000)*
1996	12	92,356
1997	12	93,130
1997	7	60,311
1998	12	104,983
1999	12	111,081
2000	12	143,847
2001	12	177,927
2002	12	212,972
2002/04	17	324,054
2005	12	230,736
2006	12	193,824

The Audit Commission changed its financial year end in 1997 so there are two sets of accounts for that year. Our financial year end was changed again in 2004, so the period 2002/04 is for 17 months, from November 2002 to March 2004.

Council Housing

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she is taking to encourage the introduction of choice-based lettings in *(a)* council housing and *(b)* housing association stock. [157623]

Mr. Iain Wright: "Sustainable Communities: Homes for All", published in January 2005, set out the Government's Choice Based Lettings (CBL) strategy: to build on the existing target—for all local authorities to have adopted CBL by 2010—by extending choice-based lettings to cover, not only local authority and RSL properties, but also shared ownership, low cost home ownership, and properties to rent from private landlords. It also encourages the development of CBL schemes on a regional and/or sub-regional basis, recognising that housing markets do not always follow local authority boundaries.

We are making available £4 million over three years (2005-08) to fund new sub-regional and regional CBL schemes. Local authorities were invited to submit bids for the third and final round of funding by 12 October 2007 and the response rate has been most encouraging. We will be announcing the results before the end of the year.

To date we have funded the development of 26 sub-regional schemes and one scheme which covers all London authorities. The pan-London Choice and Mobility Scheme ("Capital Moves") is due to go live at the beginning of 2009.

Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average council tax was *(a)* per dwelling and *(b)* on Band D properties in Great Britain in (i) 1997-98 and (ii) 2007-08. [157450]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Figures for average council tax *(a)* per dwelling and *(b)* on Band D properties in Great Britain are collected separately in England, Wales and Scotland, and are available from the following sources.

England from Communities and Local Government:

(i) 1997-98, Levels of Council Tax Set by Local Authorities in England 2006-07, Table 1 at:

http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/ctax/ctax067.pdf

and (ii)2007-08, Levels of Council Tax Set by Local Authorities in England 2007-08, Table 1 at:

http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/ctax/ctax078.pdf

Wales from Welsh Assembly Government:

(i) 1997-98, Welsh Local Government Financial Statistics 1997, Table 11.3, Composition of council tax, by authority, 1997-98 and (ii) 2007-08, Council Tax Levels in Wales: 2007-08, Table 1 at:

http://www.statswales.wales.gov.uk/tableviewer/document.aspx7FileId=861

Scotland from the Scottish Executive:

Both (i) 1997-98 and (ii) 2007-08 at Council Tax Data, tables Band D Council Tax Levels and Average Council Tax by Band at:

http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/Statistics/Browse/Local-Government-Finance/DatasetsCouncilTax

Elections: Local Government

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what plans she has for local elections in the areas where unitary bids have been approved; [157635]

(2) what the timetable is for the elections for the new unitary councils and operation of the shadow unitary councils. [157686]

John Healey: In our Discussion Paper "Councils' Proposals for Unitary Local Government: An Approach to Implementation" published on 22 August we invited the views of those councils potentially affected by restructuring on when elections for any new unitary authorities should be held. That paper indicated that the options for elections in May 2008 or May 2009 are finely balanced and we are now considering the views we have received.

Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to review Planning Policy Guidance 25 on flooding. [158754]

Mr. Iain Wright: Following a comprehensive review of Planning Policy Guidance Note 25 we published a revised, stronger and clearer Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 25 in December 2006. We will be publishing in the early part of 2008 an accompanying Practice Guide which will take into account the initial findings from the Lessons Learnt Review being undertaken after the summer 2007 floods (The Pitt Review). PPS25 is available at:

http://wwwcommunities.gov.uk/documents/planningandbuilding/pdf/planningpolicystatement25

Floods: EC Grants and Loans

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much EU assistance in respect of flooding in the UK in 2007 has been *(a)* committed and *(b)* spent. [156610]

John Healey: An application for support from the EU Solidarity Fund (EUSF) in respect of the June and July flooding in England, Wales and Northern Ireland was lodged with the European Commission on 20 August. The application is being discussed with the commission and it will be for them to decide on the level of assistance offered to the UK. Applications by other member states to the EUSF have resulted in offers of support ranging between 2.5 per cent. and 5 per cent. of the total damage suffered. The UK current estimate for total damage is €4.328 billion (approximately £2.9 billion).

The application process involves internal EC consultations and an EU Budget Amendment proposal. It is unlikely that an outcome will become known before the end of this year.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for publishing the conclusions and research relating to the Home Information Pack dry-runs and trials. [155713]

Yvette Cooper: Full conclusions from the area trials will not be available until transactions have completed and buyers feedback has been obtained.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the average length of time it takes for a home information pack to be assembled. [157405]

Yvette Cooper: We have been monitoring the market since 1 August. Early indications show that most HIPs are being provided within five to seven working days.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what requirements there are on sellers to update or replace the search element of home information packs when a property is on the market for more than six months. [157482]

Yvette Cooper: The HIPs (No. 2) Regulations 2007 require that a search must not be older than three months at the first point of marketing but there is no requirement in the regulations on how long searches can be in place before being updated or replaced.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which *(a)* mortgage lenders and *(b)* solicitors she has been informed do not accept personal searches included in a home information pack. [157661]

Yvette Cooper: Personal searches formed around 40 per cent. of the market in advance of the introduction of HIPs. HIPs can include personal searches or local authority searches.

Based on the 1 June 2007 version of the Council of Mortgage Lender's Handbook we understand that 27 of the top 30 lenders accept personal searches. HSBC is the only lender that has publicly stated that it does not and never has accepted personal searches.

We have not been informed about particular solicitors decisions on searches.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Government has received representations that mortgage lenders are refusing to accept information contained in home information packs. [158674]

Yvette Cooper: HIPs can include local authority searches or personal searches. 27 of the top 30 lenders accept personal searches which already account for 40 per cent. of the market even in advance of the introduction of HIPs. We have discussed this issue with a range of Stakeholders.

Home Information Packs: Fines

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authority trading standards departments will retain the revenue raised from fines on estate agents for non-compliance with home information pack obligations. [157483]

Yvette Cooper: Local authorities may retain the revenue from any penalty charge notices issued under section 168 of the Housing Act 2004.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether local authorities may keep the income raised from home information pack fines levied by trading standards officers. [156564]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) today (PQ 157483).

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimates were made when drafting the home information pack regulations of the number of *(a)* appeals to the County Court and *(b)* debt recovery actions in relation to home information pack fines. [157638]

Yvette Cooper: The Government have made no such estimates. Local authorities bid for and received funding for enforcing the HIP duties, based on their estimates of the cost of such enforcement to them.

Home Information Packs: Pilot Schemes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in which locations home information pack dry-runs or pilots were conducted. [157453]

Yvette Cooper: The dry-run was run on a national basis.

During the area trials home information packs were offered for voluntary take-up within the following towns and cities:

Bath
Cambridge
Huddersfield
Southampton
Newcastle
Northampton
Southwark (London Borough of Southwark)
North West Wales (Conwy, Isle of Anglesey, Gwynedd)

Home information Packs: Valuation Office

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what submissions or representations the Valuation Office Agency has made to her Department and its predecessor in relation to *(a)* home information packs and *(b)* energy performance certificates in the last 12 months. [155706]

Yvette Cooper: The Valuation Office Agency has made no such representations in the last 12 months.

Hostels: Females

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she has taken to ensure that women living in hostels have privacy and security. [157411]

Mr. Iain Wright: The £90 million Hostels Capital Improvement Programme is providing improvements to 178 hostels and homelessness projects in 62 local authority areas. This includes investment of £3.8 million in women's refuges. A key element of the programme is to provide a quality physical environment that is both private and safe with services which engage that will raise aspirations and encourage self-esteem for those people who use the programme, to encourage them to acquire skills.

Housing: Armed Forces

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will provide additional finance to local authorities with military bases in their area to enable them to offer social housing to members of HM Armed Forces when they leave the services; and if she will make a statement. [157787]

Mr. Iain Wright: Funding for social housing is distributed regionally using a needs-based formula which takes account of all those in need of affordable housing, including, where appropriate, members of HM armed forces. The Regional Assemblies advise on

funding priorities within their areas and, subject to value for money considerations and compatibility with national priorities, these factors inform the social housing delivered through the National Affordable Housing Programme which is run by the Housing Corporation, taking account of the needs of all those eligible.

Housing: Cheshire

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many homes were built in *(a)* Cheadle constituency and *(b)* Stockport local authority in (i) 2005 and (ii) 2006; [157955]

(2) how many homes were built by registered social landlords in *(a)* Cheadle constituency and *(b)* Stockport local authority in (i) 2005 and (ii) 2006. [157956]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on new house building is collected at local authority level only. The figures for new build completions in Stockport local authority are tabulated as follows.

New build completions in Stockport

	Total new build[1]	*Registered Social Landlords*[2] *"Social Rent"*
2005-06	405	22
2006-07	352	3

Source:
[1] As reported by the local authority and the National House-Building Council (P2 returns)
[2] Housing Corporation "social rent" registered social landlord new build completions

New build social rent dwellings make up only part of the affordable supply; the remainder being acquired by registered social landlords or through intermediate housing e.g. low cost home ownership. In 2005-06, acquisitions and intermediate housing supplied through registered social landlords numbered 115, which added to the new build social rent (as reported in the table) amounts to a total affordable housing provision of 137 in Stockport.

Housing: Energy

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether an energy performance certificate for a private sector rental property which does not already have a certificate will be required when an existing rental contract is renewed. [157692]

Yvette Cooper: The Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations 2007 will not require an Energy Performance Certificate for private sector rental properties when an existing rental contract is renewed.

Housing: Inspections

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in what manner the Criminal Records Bureau checks for accredited home inspectors differ from those for accredited domestic energy inspectors; and for what reasons. [153716]

Yvette Cooper: The Government consulted and agreed the level of criminal checks for energy assessors with the police. These checks are as strong or stronger than those for other professions who enter the home like gas inspectors and utility representatives.

The basic check is used for domestic energy assessors and the standard check is used for home inspectors. This is consistent with or better than that required in comparable occupations: there must be a reasonable relationship between the checks made and the level of risk based on the access a person is expected to be given.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of home inspectors who have become voluntarily redundant; and if she will make a statement. [157514]

Yvette Cooper: The Government do not have data on this issue.

Housing: Pollution Control

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the locations of the proposed 10 eco-towns are. [157481]

Yvette Cooper: Initial bids for the scheme are requested by the end of October. Government will then decide which schemes have the potential to go forward and final decisions on the locations of eco-towns will be a matter for independent testing and decision through the statutory planning process.

Housing: Temporary Accommodation

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what measures are in place to ensure that people who move on from hostels into more permanent forms of accommodation receive support in the first few months of their new tenancies. [157408]

Mr. Iain Wright: Hostel staff work closely with all residents to ensure that they are fully equipped to move as seamlessly as possible into independent living. Where appropriate they will ensure that they are provided with further housing support, which could be provided under Supporting People arrangements or through tenancy sustainment teams.

Local Authorities: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance *(a)* her Department and its predecessor and *(b)* the Standards Board for England have provided to local authorities and their members on whether donations to political parties by developers should be declared as an interest by those councillors of that political party when they consider planning or licensing applications connected to that developer. [157681]

John Healey: Neither the Department nor the Standards Board for England have issued guidance to local authorities or their members of the sort referred to.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to what Parliamentary procedure the implementation orders for local government restructuring will be subject. [157655]

John Healey: The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill provides that any implementation orders will be subject to affirmative resolution.

Multiple Occupation

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to review the efficacy of the regulatory and legislative framework in respect of houses in multiple occupation; and if she will make a statement. [158986]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department is committed to an ongoing review of the operation and effectiveness of the Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) licensing regime. As part of this process the Department has recently introduced flexibility for local authorities in respect of the prescribed standards for the numbers of toilets, bathrooms and wash hand basins in all HMOs. The Department has commissioned the Building Research Establishment (BRE) to conduct a study in 2008 on the practical implication, effectiveness and impact of the HMO licensing regime since implementation.

Planning

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the written statement of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 25-7WS, on planning, what the Government's policy is on the application of the statutory planning charge to a charity which develops its own property for its own use rather than for sale. [159179]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government intend to introduce new legislation in the forthcoming Planning Reform Bill to empower local authorities to apply standard planning charges in their areas to help finance the infrastructure needed to support growth, particularly housing growth. In her statement on 9 October, my right hon. Friend the Minister for Housing (Yvette Cooper) said that there would be a low *de minimis* threshold for the new charges. We will make further announcements on the detailed arrangements for the charge when we introduce the new legislation.

Planning: Renewable Energy

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local planning authorities have adopted policies requiring onsite renewable energy in proposals for major developments. [157351]

Yvette Cooper: In June 2006 we reported on an examination of plans which had come forward since Planning Policy Statement 22 (PPS22) was published to establish how many contained a policy expecting a percentage of the energy to be used in new residential, commercial or industrial developments to come from on-site renewables. 39 out of the 69 plans which could reasonably have been expected to include such a policy did so. We do not hold figures for policies adopted prior to the publication of PPS22. Subsequently, the Town and Country Planning Association published their own survey highlighting

> "an impressive surge in onsite renewable energy policies".

This suggested that more than 170 local authorities were

> "working up policies to require developers to generate clean, safe energy onsite in new developments".

Policies vary in their scope and the scale of development to which they are applied.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many legal challenges have been made to local authorities implementing the Merton Rule requirement for onsite renewable energy in major new developments. [157355]

Yvette Cooper: This information is not held centrally and could be assembled only from local authorities at a disproportionate cost.

Taxation: Business

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her timetable is for legislating to introduce a supplementary business rate; and whether primary or secondary legislation will be required. [157498]

John Healey: Supplements will require primary and secondary legislation. Subject to Parliament's approval, the intention is that the power to raise supplements should come into use on 1 April 2010.

Valuation Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1156W to the hon. Member for Beckenham, on the Valuation Office, for how long Cole Layer Trumble are contracted to provide consultancy advice to Capgemini. [157554]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 26 April 2006, *Official Report*, column 1200W. The contract between Cole Layer Trumble and Capgemini is ongoing.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Land Use

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much agricultural land in England, in hectares, was given for best and most versatile status in *(a)* 1997 or the nearest year available and *(b)* the most recent year for which figures are available. [158091]

Jonathan Shaw: There is no national programme to collect statistics on the amount of Best and Most Versatile agricultural land (designated as grades 1, 2 and 3A under DEFRA's Agricultural Land Classifications system) in England. According to the most recent estimates, made in 1993-94, there were 4.8 million hectares of such land in England.

Agriculture: Mushrooms

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what steps his Department is taking to support the UK mushroom farming industry; [158612]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to encourage the major multiple retailers and other food retailers in the UK to stock locally grown mushrooms in their stores. [158613]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA supports the mushroom industry by funding research to address problems of concern to growers and to ensure a sustainable industry in the future. In particular, the most serious problem that has affected the industry in recent years—Virus X—has been addressed by a DEFRA-funded project carried out by the mushroom research unit at the facilities at the Warwick-HRI research centre. This project, which finished earlier this year, cost in excess of £900,000.

Food From Britain, using the additional £1 million per annum funding DEFRA has provided under our regional food strategy, has been facilitating meetings between a number of retailers and the regional food groups aimed at getting more quality regional and local foods on to supermarket shelves. A number of successful local sourcing activities have resulted from this activity, which complements the work being carried out by retailers themselves.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on progress in developing the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test for detecting bovine tuberculosis (TB); what discussions he has had with the Institute of Animal Health and Smiths Detection on the matter; and when he expects PCR testing to be used to detect bovine TB. [158985]

Jonathan Shaw: We are fully aware of the need to develop a rapid and reliable test for the detection of *Mycobacterium bovis (M. bovis)* infection in cattle tissues and in live badgers or badger setts. DEFRA has been funding work using the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technique to develop tests for *M. bovis* since 1999. This has included work to develop a bovine TB (bTB) screening test that can detect the presence of *M. bovis* DNA in infected cattle tissues. Work to date shows promise for use of the test to achieve faster confirmation and subsequent tracing of bTB infection in slaughterhouse cases.

Detection of *M. bovis* DNA in samples directly from live badgers and in their excretions using PCR is difficult because of the low levels and intermittent nature of excretion of *M. bovis* by infected animals. There are also difficulties around extracting DNA from mycobacteria, and the presence of components that slow down the PCR in clinical samples (PCR inhibitors). Over the next three years, £1.3 million will be invested in work using the PCR technique to develop a test that will allow us to differentiate between *M. bovis* and similar species of mycobacterium from environmental samples. While it may be possible for a PCR test for environmental *M. bovis* DNA to identify areas (such as setts) where the organism is present, we would not be able to identify individual animals that were infected. In addition, at the moment, we would not be able to identify whether the DNA that was detected was from *M. bovis* mycobacteria that were alive and infectious. PCR is not yet as sensitive, specific or reliable as conventional bacterial culture in detection of *M. bovis* and a validated PCR test is not likely to be available in the short-term. Careful consideration of how such a test could usefully be employed to replace, or be used in conjunction with, existing tests will also be needed once its performance has been assessed.

Those carrying out the DEFRA-funded PCR research are working in collaboration with others with an interest in this field in the UK. However, DEFRA does not have a record of specific discussions with the Institute of Animal Health or Smiths Detection about PCR.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Shropshire

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to tackle the increase in the incidence of bovine TB in Shropshire. [159157]

Jonathan Shaw: We recognise that the level of bovine tuberculosis (bTB) in cattle is unacceptably high, and that some areas, such as Shropshire, are becoming more affected. In line with the "GB Strategic Framework for the Control of Bovine TB", we are tailoring our policies to take account of the regional variation of disease risk as well as reflecting emerging evidence. Working on these principles, we have introduced measures such as pre-movement testing for cattle moving out of high risk herds. We have also extended the use of the gamma interferon blood test (alongside the TB skin test) to improve the sensitivity of our testing regime and identify more infected animals more quickly.

We will continue to work in partnership with interested parties to embed and monitor these measures. We have also recently developed revised TB husbandry guidance in association with the Bovine TB Husbandry Working Group, and published two free guidance booklets for farmers, to help them prevent bTB in their herds.

Looking ahead, DEFRA funds a wide-ranging bTB research programme and we will continue to use emerging evidence to inform our policies for the future. In June, the Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB published its Final Report which adds to the scientific evidence base. We are now considering carefully the issues raised in the report and we will work with farmers, Government advisers and scientific experts in reaching final policy decisions on these.

Carbon Emissions

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he

has for standardising the reporting mechanisms by which business and industry account for their emissions of carbon dioxide; and if he will make a statement. [158782]

Mr. Woolas: The Carbon Reduction Commitment (CRC) will begin in January 2010. CRC will apply mandatory emissions trading to up to 5,000 large non-energy intensive business and public sector organisations (including banks, large office buildings, supermarkets, large retail chains and Government departments). These organisations will be required to monitor their energy use and report this annually in a standardised format.

The Government require companies and industries to report on their greenhouse gas emissions (GHG), including carbon dioxide (CO_2), in a standardised format. For example, all installations taking part in the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme (EU ETS) must monitor and report their CO_2 emissions in accordance with guidelines produced by the European Commission. The imminent CRC will require companies involved in the mandatory trading scheme to monitor their energy use and report this annually in a standardised format.

The Government are also keen that companies voluntarily report on their environmental impacts by publishing guidance in 2006 on how companies could report on environmental issues through Key Performance Indicators. This guidance includes standardised conversion factors for the direct and indirect use of GHG emissions. These guidelines are compatible with the Greenhouse Gas Protocol, an accounting framework responsible for most global GHG standards and programmes.

The Government have also supported the work of the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP), a voluntary investor driven approach encouraging companies to disclose quantified GHG emissions data and the Global Reporting Initiative. To develop this further, the Government are also supporting work by the Climate Disclosure Standards Board (CDSB) to develop an international standard on entity wide GHG emission reporting. The CDSB was announced at the World Economic Forum in Davos in January 2007 and will include a range of stakeholders, including accountants, business and Non Governmental Organisations to develop an internationally applicable standard.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the operation of the proposed carbon offsets scheme of *(a)* including and *(b)* excluding credits from voluntary emission reductions projects; [159358]

(2) what representations he has received on the inclusion of voluntary emissions reduction credits in the Code of Best Practice on carbon credits. [159359]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA received 166 responses to the consultation on the proposed Code of Best Practice, which closed on 13 April 2007. Ministers are currently considering the likely impacts of including and excluding credits from voluntary emissions reductions projects within the proposed code of best practice for offsetting.

A partial Regulatory Impact Assessment was published with the consultation document on 18 January 2007. A final Impact Assessment will be prepared for the approach Ministers decide to take.

The Secretary of State has received various representations on the proposed Code of Best Practice, including letters and a discussion of the issue with Jonathan Porritt, chair of the Sustainable Development Commission. The Environmental Audit Committee's report on the Voluntary Carbon Offset Market also addressed this issue and is informing Ministers' consideration.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which private consultancy firms *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies which report to his Department engaged in each of the last three years; which programmes or projects each firm worked on; and what the approximate cost to the Department or agency concerned was of each engagement. [155872]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department does not hold a central list of every private consultancy firm engaged by the core Department and its executive agencies over the last three years; which programmes or projects each firm worked on; and the cost of each engagement. Such a list could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Department came into being in July 2001. From information held centrally, the core-Department's expenditure on consultancy and professional services over the financial years 2002-03 to 2006-07 is as per the following table:

£

Professional services	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
IT and Telecommunication	45,431,803	52,805,769	99,254,525	130,937,698	162,829,742
Management and Business Consultancy	15,317,092	20,260,714	78,671,992	44,136,007	29,344,628
Programme and Project Management	20,579,670	23,118,978	24,323,086	18,192,186	4,407,693
Research and Development	9,032,254	9,751,623	18,113,871	20,190,046	33,450,349
Specialist Consultancy	39,942,837	39,828,357	36,312,208	36,646,432	53,732,059
Temp Staff	10,536,838	9,383,419	9,623,459	9,890,898	6,665,696
Grand total	140,840,492	155,148,860	266,299,141	259,993,267	290,430,167

The reduction in expenditure for programme and project management between 2005-06 and 2006-07 is the result of re-classifying some £14 million into the specialist consultancy expenditure category. This will be the subject of an explanatory note in the DEFRA Departmental Report for 2008.

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many websites his Department operates; how many it operated at 1 January 2005; and what the estimated annual cost has been of running his Department's websites in the last five years. [157873]

Jonathan Shaw: As part of the Transformational Government Web rationalisation process, DEFRA is currently reviewing all its websites. Over time, content will be rationalised and where appropriate moved to Directgov and Business link. A number of the current websites will close.

A list of the websites DEFRA is responsible for was published by PSX(e) in 2007. Additional information on visitor numbers and operating costs may be found in a response to an earlier question from Theresa May (135733).

Information on the number of websites operated on 1 January 2005 is not held.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many hits the *(a)* most popular and *(b)* the least popular website run by his Department has received since 1 January 2007. [157874]

Jonathan Shaw: The core DEFRA website, www.defra.gov.uk has received the following hits monthly since January 2007. More detailed records for other websites within the DEFRA network are not readily available, although information on visitor numbers can be found in a response to an earlier question from Theresa May (135733). A list of the websites DEFRA is responsible for was published by PSX(e) in March 2007.

Month	*Hits*	*Unique visitors*	*Sessions*
January	19,021,582	463,278	2,746,328
February	18,471,467	454,404	2,832,884
March	17,657,504	464,599	3,077,232
April	17,639,549	440,434	2,857,141
May	18,912,812	472,407	2,992,482
June	16,591,315	397,278	2,891,503
July	10,681,215	281,650	1,877,892
August	27,010,619	563,665	3,483,506

Departments: Manpower

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what percentage of employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by his Department are above state retirement age. [158944]

Jonathan Shaw: The percentage of employees above state retirement age for Departments and executive agencies is not available from published sources.

The following table shows the number of staff in DEFRA and its agencies who were above state retirement age on 30 September 2006, where such information was available. The data used to provide this information was obtained from civil service statistics collected from Departments by the Office for National Statistics.

	Number of staff 65 or over (age known[1])	*Total number of staff (age known[1])*	*Percentage over retirement age*
DEFRA	[2]—	5,430	[2]—
AH	0	1,450	0.00
CEFAS	0	550	0.00
CSL	[2]—	720	[2]—
CDS	0	20	0.00
MFA	0	160	0.00
PSD	0	200	0.00
RPA[3]	—	—	—
VLA	0	1,340	0.00
VMD	0	140	0.00

[1] Analysis has been carried out where age known.
[2] Data not available.
[3] Indicates where data collection method does not allow age analysis.
Note:
Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.

The information requested is not available for non-departmental public bodies.

Departments: Secondment

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff are seconded to his Department from outside Government; from which outside body each has been seconded; and what the length is of each secondment. [157872]

Jonathan Shaw: There are currently 29 staff on inward secondment to DEFRA from outside Government. They are on secondment from the following organisations:

Outside body	*Number*
BCSE	1
Belfast City Council	1
Borough of Telford and Wrekin Co.	1
Camden Council	1
EADS Astrium	1
EAGA Partnership	1
ENCAMS	2
Environment Agency	1
Ernst & Young	1
IDA	1
MLC	1
Natural England	3
Npower	1
OFGEM	4
Partnerships UK	1
Policy Studies Institute	1

Outside body	*Number*
RPS (London Remade)	2
Scottish Executive	1
Staffordshire Fire and Rescue	1
Swedish Energy Agency	1
Transport Research Lab.	1
University of Cambridge	1

The lengths of the secondments are as follows:

Length of secondment	*Number*
less than 1 year	4
1 to 2 years	15
2 to 3 years	4
3 to 4 years	4
4 to 5 years	2

Dogs: Animal Breeding

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to prevent the sale of puppies from unlicensed farms and rearing establishments. [159247]

Jonathan Shaw: Anyone in the business of breeding and selling dogs requires a licence from the local authority under the Breeding of Dogs Act 1973 (as amended 1999). It is for local authorities, who have extensive powers to check for unlicensed premises, to enforce the requirements of the Act.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library copies of the *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2007 editions of the guidance produced by Waste Resources Action Programme on alternate weekly collections of household rubbish. [158409]

Joan Ruddock: The Waste and Resources Action Programme's 2005 guidance on alternative weekly collections of waste was withdrawn while it was being updated. A new version was published in July 2007. I have arranged for this to be placed in the Library of the House.

I have asked the Waste and Resources Action Programme to write directly to the hon. Member to provide him with a copy of the out-of-date 2005 edition of the guidance.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that Natural England has sufficient resources to cope with the re-negotiation of environmentally sensitive area agreements as part of the new EU regional development plans. [159327]

Jonathan Shaw: Arrangements for operating agri-environment schemes, including the Environmentally Sensitive Areas scheme, are the responsibility of Natural England.

The Secretary of State announced on 29 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 131WS, that the overall budget for the Rural Development Programme for England covering the period 2007 to 2013 will be £3.9 billion. The proportion of that budget which will be devoted to agri-environment schemes, which includes Environmentally Sensitive Areas agreements, is expected to be about £2.9 billion. This represents an increase of £1.3 billion over the funding that was available, for agri-environment schemes, in the 2000 to 2006 period under the England Rural Development Programme.

Farmers: Animal Welfare

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to farmers of the cost sharing mechanism for animal health and welfare announced in the Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement on the comprehensive spending review. [158541]

Jonathan Shaw: As no conclusions have yet been reached on a cost sharing mechanism for animal health and welfare, no estimate of the element falling to farmers has been possible. We aim to consult further on principles and possible options before the end of the year.

Iain Anderson's 2002 report on the handling of the 2001 outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD) recommended that the tax payer should not be expected to foot the bill (approximately £3 billion that time) for compensating farmers as a result of an animal disease outbreak. Cost sharing and responsibility sharing need to be taken together to realise the considerable benefits they offer to both the industry and the Government. A cost sharing mechanism, when combined with responsibility sharing, should result in greater efficiencies, reduced risks, better decisions and more effective contingencies for risks. Therefore, it should reduce the overall costs which would also be more equitably shared between the Government and the industry, in line with Iain Anderson's 2002 recommendations.

Fish

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the 40 tonnes of Area VII anglerfish swapped away from the under 10 metres pool has been swapped for. [159135]

Jonathan Shaw: The 40 tonnes of Area VII anglerfish was the 2007 element of a cross-year swap that Fisheries Administrations undertook in 2006 with the South Western Fish Producers' Organisation (FPO). It gained 40 tonnes of Channel plaice quota for the 10 metre and under fleet, ensuring that the inshore fishery was not closed prematurely as a result of heavy landings. Annual uptake of anglerfish during previous years had suggested that the 10 metre and under pool allocation would not be taken in full during 2007. In 2007, the Marine and Fisheries Agency have acquired some
33 tonnes of additional VII anglerfish quota for the 10 metre and under pool allocation.

Fisheries

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the size of the domestic fishing industry in each European Economic Area country. [159607]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on the size of the fleet and landings of sea fish (including shellfish) for each European Union member state is readily available only for 2005 and is in the following table. Figures on the size of the fleet for 2006 are published in "Sea Fisheries Statistics 2006" and a copy has been placed in the House of Commons Library.

European Union fishing industry 2005[1]

	Number of vessels[2]	*Engine Power kW*[2]	*Gross Tonnage*[2]	*Catch (Thousand tonnes)*
Belgium	121	65,643	22,686	24.1
Cyprus	887	47,381	9,123	1.9
Denmark	3,274	326,368	91,934	910.5
Estonia	1,045	61,983	24,217	96.3
Finland	3,267	171,638	17,123	95.5
France	7,859	1,070,040	215,110	572.2
Germany	2,121	159,299	64,075	264.3
Greece	18,275	536,938	93,017	91.2
Ireland	1,411	215,958	87,753	262.0
Italy	14,459	1,226,735	213,232	294.6
Latvia	928	66,205	38,539	150.3
Lithuania	272	70,651	64,403	138.2
Malta	1,421	102,110	19,009	1.4
Netherlands	830	401,507	171,988	547.1
Poland	974	105,344	30,258	135.8
Portugal	9,955	384,291	108,700	211.8
Slovenia	169	10,967	1,059	1.0
Spain	13,691	1,124,330	487,396	840.1
Sweden	1,640	221,904	44,780	254.9
United Kingdom[3]	6,716	876,479	217,617	707.8

[1] Data for other member states provided by the Food and Agricultural Organisation, of the United Nations (FAO) and Eurostat.
[2] As at 31 December 2005.
[3] Includes islands.

Fisheries: Manpower

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time fishermen there are in each European Economic Area country. [159605]

Jonathan Shaw: In 2006, there were 12,934 fishermen in the United Kingdom. Of these, 10,358 were regular fishermen and 2,576 were part-time.

A recent European Commission study concluded that concepts and definitions relating to employment in the fishing industry were not harmonised across member states, and the availability of such data across the EU is not uniform making it impossible to carry out meaningful comparisons across the EU. As such, similar figures for other member states are not available.

Fisheries: White Fish

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's assessment is of the optimum minimum landing size for sea bass required to promote the creation of a robust stock structure and stimulate the development of recreational sea fishery. [158055]

Jonathan Shaw: Scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea suggests that sea bass is fished sustainably under current management measures which include a minimum landing size (MLS) of 36 cm.

The regulatory impact assessment, produced as part of proposals to increase the MLS for bass in England, set out the impact of the measures on bass stocks, and the associated costs and benefits for recreational sea anglers and commercial fishermen. This was published on 10 August 2006.

I will make an announcement shortly, on whether I will introduce an increased MLS for bass.

Fishing Vessels

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* under-10 metre and *(b)* over-10 metre fishing vessels there are in each European Economic Area country. [159606]

Jonathan Shaw: As at 31 December 2006 there were 5,203 vessels of 10 metres in length and under in the UK fishing fleet (including islands), and 1,555 vessels over 10 metres. UK fishing vessels of 10 metres in length and under are subject to specific rules in the management of fish quotas. This distinction does not apply across the rest of Europe and as such figures are not readily available on this basis. However, they are available for the number of European Union vessels above and below 12 metres in length, and this information is given in the table.

Number of vessels in the European Union fishing fleet by vessel length, 31 December 2006

	Under 12m	*12m or more*	*Overall length Total*
Belgium	0	107	107
Cyprus	815	59	874
Denmark	2,422	717	3,139
Estonia	861	134	995
Finland	3,074	122	3,196
France	6,324	1,349	7,673
Germany	1,631	386	2,017
Greece	16,934	1,111	18,045
Ireland	1,441	368	1,809
Italy	9,593	4,534	14,127
Latvia	734	163	897
Lithuania	197	69	266
Malta	1,311	104	1,415
Netherlands	289	551	840
Poland	609	274	883
Portugal	7,902	852	8,754
Slovenia	147	24	171
Spain	9,871	3,520	13,391

Number of vessels in the European Union fishing fleet by vessel length, 31 December 2006

	Overall length		
	Under 12m	*12m or more*	*Total*
Sweden	1,287	299	1,586
United Kingdom	5,637	1,121	6,758
Total	71,079	15,864	86,943

Flood Control: Finance

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the mechanism by which the funds for flood defences will be dispersed throughout the country. [159861]

Mr. Woolas: Following public consultation, a set of criteria has been developed to provide greater clarity on what funding and policies for flood and coastal erosion risk management are intended to achieve.

The public consultation also included criteria for priorities. We are now working with the Environment Agency to develop an effective prioritisation process for the capital programme. Allocation of funds for maintenance works is undertaken by the Agency on the basis of their asset management strategy. This takes account of risk.

Fly-tipping: Travelling People

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion and number of fly-tipping incidents recorded on the Flycapture database were associated with traveller sites in the most recent year for which figures are available. [158406]

Joan Ruddock: The Flycapture database records the number of fly-tipping incidents that occur on specified land classifications. This does not include fly-tipping incidents that occur on Traveller sites.

Insects

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the populations of the *(a)* pea mining bee (andrena lathyri), *(b)* dark guest ant (anergates atratulus), *(c)* short haired bumble bee (bombus subterraneus), *(d)* New Forest cicada (cicadetta montana), *(e)* Ivell's sea anemone (Edwardsia ivelli), *(f)* black-backed meadow ant (formica pratensis), *(g)* nomad errans-a cuckoo bee, *(h)* stenus palposus-a rove beetle and *(i)* Essex emerald (thetida smaragdaria maritima) in England; and if he will make a statement. [157974]

Joan Ruddock: The nine species listed have recently been assessed as part of the Biodiversity Action Planning process. Population estimates for eight of the species are at, or close to, zero. Estimates for the dark guest ant, *Anergates atratulus* are hard to make: the species is difficult to find and it is likely to be a naturally rare species.

Landfill Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the forecast change in landfill tax receipts is for each of the next three years. [158249]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Forecast landfill tax receipts for 2007-08 and 2008-09 are published in table B8 of the 2007 pre-Budget report and Comprehensive Spending Review available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/F/9/pbr_csr07_annexb_305.pdf

Landfill: Methane

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the percentage of the UK's renewable energy emissions that comes from using methane collected from landfill sites as an energy source. [158219]

Mr. Woolas: In 2006, landfill gas contributed approximately 20 per cent. of the carbon dioxide emissions saved by renewable energy sources. In the absence of these renewable sources, the electricity and heat they could have produced would have been provided by burning fossil fuels. Furthermore, collection of methane at landfill sites, reduced total UK emissions of methane by some 50 per cent. About 45 per cent. of the methane collected at landfills was utilised for electricity or heat generation, with the remainder being flared.

Livestock: Antibiotics

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the incidence of the use of antibiotics as a surrogate for growth promoters in livestock; and if he will make a statement. [158236]

Jonathan Shaw: Following the ban of antimicrobial growth promoters by the EU in 2006, the Veterinary Medicines Directorate is not aware of any evidence to suggest that farmers are using antibiotics as replacements for antimicrobial growth promoters.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will commission a review of the extent of the prophylactic use of antibiotics in livestock production; and if he will prohibit the advertising of prescription-only antibiotics directly to farmers. [158239]

Jonathan Shaw: Farm animal veterinary medicine is largely about treating populations of animals in herds or flocks. Antimicrobials are used where a number of animals are already suffering disease both to treat these animals and to prevent the disease from spreading throughout the group.

The sales of antimicrobials for use in animals are reported annually by the Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD) and the report includes antimicrobial medicines designed to be used in feed or in water for the purposes

above. The report also includes the sales of coccidiostats which are zootechnical feed additives used exclusively to prevent the common coccidia parasite in poultry. These are the only antimicrobials used in advance of disease occurring (prophylaxis). In 2005 390 tonnes of active ingredients of medicinal antimicrobials for use in food producing animals and 231 tonnes of coccidiostats were sold.

All antimicrobials currently on the market have the distribution category of Prescription Only Medicine-Veterinarian (POM-V). The Veterinary Medicines Regulations 2007 SI 2539 allows veterinary medicinal products classified as POM-V to be advertised to veterinary surgeons and nurses, pharmacists and professional keepers of animals. The Veterinary Medicines Directorate classifies a professional keeper of animals as someone whose main source of income is derived from keeping animals; this includes farmers. There are currently no plans to change this.

Livestock: Botulism

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many cases of botulism have been reported in livestock in 2007; and if he will make a statement; [157988]

(2) what steps he has taken to reduce the risk of botulism being transferred to livestock from poultry waste. [157989]

Jonathan Shaw: According to the latest available figures, there have been 30 suspected botulism incidents in cattle and sheep in England and Wales in 2007 (27 in cattle and three in sheep). This figure includes some clusters which have been recorded as a single incident or outbreak where more than one premises has been affected.

The Animal By-Products Regulation (Regulation (EC) No. 1774/2002) is enforced through the Animal By-Products Regulations 2005 in England, and equivalent legislation in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The regulation prohibits the composting of poultry carcases or the spreading of litter or manure containing carcase material.

DEFRA has recommended good practice in litter management and disposal, including expansion of biosecurity messages to broiler farmers to highlight the risks of disease transmission caused by poor carcase removal practices. Advice and guidance is available via the Veterinary Laboratory Agency (VLA) and DEFRA websites.

Veterinary practitioners have been alerted to the issue via letters to the Veterinary Record from the VLA/DEFRA, and the issue has recently been included in a British Cattle Veterinary Association newsletter. Advice on the risks of botulism associated with broiler litter and how these risks may be reduced has also been an agenda item in meetings between the VLA and farmers. One such meeting was held in North Derbyshire on 9 October 2007.

The Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Food (ACMSF) set up a sub-group to look at the issue of botulism in cattle, and published a report in December 2006. DEFRA acted as an assessor on this group, and the report endorsed the current DEFRA/VLA guidance on the disposal of poultry litter. A further ACMSF sub-group, which also includes a DEFRA assessor, is now looking at the issue with respect to sheep and goats. It will publish its findings in due course.

Nature Conservation: Scotland

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has had discussions with the Scottish Executive on preserving and developing wildlife nature reserves in Scotland. [159280]

Joan Ruddock: This month, I am meeting Michael Russell, Minister for Environment in Scotland, to discuss a range of wildlife-related matters. However, the development of wildlife nature reserves in Scotland is a devolved matter and my Department has not discussed the issue with the Scottish Executive.

Paté De Foie Gras

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will ban the importation of foie gras under article 30 of the treaty of Rome, with particular reference to *(a)* public morality and *(b)* the protection of health and life of animals; and if he will make a statement. [158816]

Jonathan Shaw: The free movement of goods is a well established principle in Community law and is enshrined in Part III, Title I of the treaty establishing the European Community (TEC). A unilateral ban by the UK on the import of foie gras would contravene the provisions of the TEC and would result in proceedings being brought against us before the European Court of Justice.

In addition, World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules do not allow us to ban imports on the grounds of the welfare standards applying in third countries. Although it may be possible to use the public morality exemption to justify restrictions on the importation of products in some circumstances, it is unlikely that reliance on this exemption would be successful in this instance.

The potential scope of this exemption is currently being considered in relation to other policy areas. This may result in the WTO Dispute Settlement Panel considering the interface between public morality and animal welfare concerns.

Pirbright Laboratory: Standards

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 13 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2221W, on Pirbright Laboratory standards, what issues were identified; what progress has been made in addressing those issues; whether issues identified in 2006 had been previously identified; and whether recommendations made in previous reports had been implemented. [157090]

Jonathan Shaw: The December 2006 inspection reviewed a number of previously identified issues including aspects of management, site security, ventilation, waste handling, storage and transport of

pathogens and documentation. No major or new biosecurity issues were identified during the 2006 inspection.

Where any particular biosecurity issues are identified in an inspection, the laboratory is required to submit action plans addressing these issues and, once agreed, implement the plans. Subsequent to the outbreaks of foot and mouth disease in 2007, and the independent reviews carried out by Professor Spratt and the Health and Safety Executive, substantial progress has been made by IAH with the implementation of a variety of measures to strengthen biosecurity.

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to revise the Government's policy on the EU ban on battery cages from 2012; and if he will make a statement. [159142]

Jonathan Shaw: Council Directive 99/74/EC prohibits the use of conventional (battery) cages from 1 January 2012. The directive has been transposed into domestic legislation and includes the deadline for the ban on these cages. DEFRA policy remains that there should be no conventional cages from 2012.

River Severn: Shrewsbury

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the dredging of the River Severn in Shrewsbury. [159159]

Mr. Woolas: The Environment Agency assessed whether dredging the River Severn would reduce flood risk in Shrewsbury using hydraulic computer models as part of their Fluvial Flood Risk Management Strategy in 2006, and in designs for the Frankwell Flood Alleviation Scheme in 2001.

The agency concluded that dredging the River Severn would achieve no significant reduction in flood risk but it would have considerable environmental impact and involve very high annual costs.

Seas and Oceans: Environment Protection

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on the Draft Marine Bill; and if he will make a statement. [158345]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA officials and I have regular discussions with the Scottish Executive on matters of mutual interest including the Marine Bill. I recently met with Richard Lochhead MSP, Scottish Cabinet Secretary for Rural Affairs and the Environment to discuss a number of issues including the Marine Bill.

UK Government want to deliver coherent arrangements across the whole of the UK marine area. The Scottish Executive has announced their intention to bring forward a Scottish Marine Bill. We will continue to discuss marine policy issues with the Scottish Executive to promote a joined up and consistent approach across both Bills.

Severn Trent Water: Billing

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to prevent Severn Trent Water from back-dating bills for five years. [159156]

Mr. Woolas: Ofwat is the economic regulator for water in England and Wales. It approves water companies' charges schemes each year, including their policies on back-dating bills.

Ofwat expects water companies to make every effort to charge accurately and to adopt customer friendly policies when assessing whether to back-date individual bills.

Water companies cannot bring an action to recover charges more than six years after they become due (section 9 of the Limitation Act 1980).

Trees: Diseases

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the spread of *Cameraria ohridella*. [158742]

Joan Ruddock: Horse chestnut leaf miner (*Cameraria ohridella*) was first discovered in Wimbledon in 2002 and has since continued to spread northwards, into south Yorkshire and Cheshire, eastwards almost throughout East Anglia, and it has reached the border counties of Wales.

We are continuing to monitor its movement, and invite the public to report any sightings to us to help us do this. Sightings can be reported to the entomology branch of Forest Research on 01420 22255.

The larvae of *Cameraria ohridella* devour the leaves, but do not kill the trees, nor do they appear to have any long-term effect on tree health or vitality. Although trees appear unsightly during infestation, they will leaf-out and flower normally in the following year.

There are no effective control mechanisms available, especially where the trees occur together in large numbers, such as in parks and woodland. Research into control continues and gardeners can help to protect their horse chestnut trees by sweeping up and disposing of autumn leaves, which destroys the over-wintering pupae.

Wastes: Renewable Energy

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to increase awareness of the potential benefits of *(a)* waste incineration and *(b)* energy from waste technologies; and if he will make a statement. [158834]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 17 October 2007]:* Generating energy from waste that cannot be prevented, reused or recycled has both energy and waste policy benefits.

Waste Strategy 2007, which was published on 24 May this year, sets out the Government's policy on waste incineration and energy from waste. The Strategy places a strong emphasis on links with energy policy and the need to consider the overall impacts of managing waste, including the greenhouse gas

emissions generated by various waste management options. The biodegradable fraction of waste is a renewable resource and energy generated either directly from waste, or through the use of a refuse derived fuel, increases our energy security.

Anaerobic digestion, in particular, has significant carbon and energy benefits over other options for managing food waste. We are therefore encouraging local authorities and businesses to consider whether anaerobic digestion has a role to play in meeting their objectives. The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) will continue to promote this technology for treating commercial and municipal food waste through its capital support programme and work with the Carbon Trust and the food industry.

As mentioned in the Waste Strategy 2007, DEFRA is also considering ways to raise public awareness of the options and issues relating to waste management infrastructure. The aim is to provide evidenced-based information which will aid public comprehension of the options. Communications activity is tentatively planned for early 2008.

DEFRA also operates the New Technologies Demonstrator Programme to demonstrate innovative waste treatment technologies as possible alternatives to landfill. The programme aims to prove the economic, social and environmental viability of each selected technology. Each site will have a visitor centre, which will be open throughout the plant's participation in the programme. These will enable representatives from local authorities and the waste sector to learn more about the particular strengths and weaknesses of each technology. There will be a series of impartial reports, presentations and advice from experts working on behalf of the Department.

Water Charges: Eastern Region

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average percentage change in domestic water bills has been in each local authority area in the East of England since May 1997. [159219]

Mr. Woolas: Ofwat is the economic regulator for water in England and Wales. Each year, it checks to ensure that water companies' annual bills do not exceed their allowed price limits.

Average bill information is not available at local authority level. Changes in average household bills since 1997 for companies serving the East of England including Anglian Water, Cambridge Water, Essex and Suffolk Water, Severn Trent Water and Tendring Hundred Water, are set out in the following tables (in 2007-08 prices):

Water and sewerage companies

	Anglian Water			*Severn Trent Water*		
	Water	*Sewerage*	*Total*	*Water*	*Sewerage*	*Total*
1997-98 (£)	163	204	367	125	144	269
2007-08 (£)	154	191	345	141	138	279
Percentage change	-6	-6	-6	13	-4	4

Water-only companies

	Cambridge Water	*Essex and Suffolk Water*	*Tendring Hundred Water*
1997-98 (£)	135	152	188
2007-08 (£)	111	160	161
Percentage change	-18	5	-14

Whales: Conservation

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has *(a)* to update the publication Protecting Whales: A global responsibility and *(b)* to distribute it in advance of next year's International Whaling Commission meeting in Chile; and if he will make a statement. [159302]

Jonathan Shaw: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office will shortly deliver an updated version of the publication 'Protecting Whales—A Global Responsibility' to host Governments to encourage more nations to join the effort to protect these species and maintain the moratorium on commercial whaling.

The UK and its allies have taken every opportunity to try to persuade new anti-whaling countries to join the International Whaling Commission. There has been some success; eight have joined in the last three years.

Whales: Japan

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with EU Ministers on Japan's killing of whales. [159351]

Jonathan Shaw: Whaling is not an issue on which the European Union (EU) exercises competence. As such, it is not generally a subject for discussion at meetings of EU Ministers.

At official level we do have regular contact with other like-minded countries, including those EU countries who are, like the UK, parties to the International Convention on the Regulation of Whaling and thus members of the International Whaling Commission (IWC).

However, there has been no formal round of discussions or correspondence since the conclusion of this year's annual meeting of the IWC in June this year.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Advantage West Midlands: Grants

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funding his Department provided for Advantage West Midlands to subsidise the move by Severn Trent Water plc from Birmingham to Coventry; whether the subsidising by the regional development agency (RDA) of a company's move within the region is in accordance with his Department's policy on the appropriate use of RDAs' funds; and if he will make a statement. [159305]

Mr. Timms: No funding was provided by BERR to Advantage West Midlands in relation to the move by Severn Trent Water plc from Birmingham to Coventry

Advantage West Midlands (AWM) has not provided any subsidy to Severn Trent Water plc for the company's move from Birmingham to Coventry.

Debts: Maldives

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the debt owed to the Export Credits Guarantee Department by the Maldives was *(a)* in each of the last five years and *(b)* on the most recent date for which information is available; what plans he has to write off outstanding debt owed by the Maldives; what recent representations he has received on this; and if he will make a statement. [159642]

Malcolm Wicks: There are no outstanding debts owed to ECGD by the Maldives.

ECGD has a small amount of exposure (£3.9 million) in respect of a loan which is being guaranteed by ECGD, where repayments are being made to the financing bank on time. The loan relates to a contract for the upgrade of an airport.

Furniture

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will consider the merits of providing support and assistance to the furniture industry to take account of recent increases in the prices paid by furniture manufacturers for materials. [158031]

Mr. Timms: Government provide a range of support through the Businesslink service to help companies from all sectors improve their competitiveness. We are also providing support to the furniture industry with funding of £1.75 million over four and a half years, from 2003 to March 2008, to establish UK First, the furniture sector industry forum to help companies in the sector to improve performance on quality, cost and delivery.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many former miners' compensation claims cases are awaiting responses in relation to employment records enquiries from private mining companies; what assessment he has made of the impact of the time taken to respond to such enquiries by such companies on the time taken to conclude such claims; and if he will make a statement. [158791]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department is not able to readily identify the number of claims in which information is awaited from private mining companies in relation to employment records. Certainly, some vibration white finger claims have taken longer to reach settlement because the Department's claims handlers had to obtain employment records from co-defendants and this is sometimes a lengthy process. There are 82 small mine and 62 UK coal respiratory disease claims with wage and pension loss issues that the Department is currently unable to make offers on due to information being held by third parties. This is partially due to the lack of an agreed process between the parties. The Department will soon be proposing new protocols in an attempt to agree such a process.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made on coal mining operators and the claims handling agreement; and what steps the Government plan to take to ensure that outstanding former miners' claims are settled. [158792]

Malcolm Wicks: The number of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease claims affected by co-defendant policy issues has dropped dramatically over time due to the number of decisions implemented within the system and different parties accepting the terms of the claims handling agreement. The UK coal agreement will pave the way for another large number of claims to progress to settlement, subject to calculator development. However, issues remain outstanding with other post successor companies that bought out collieries following privatisation of British Coal. My Department is working to achieve a swift resolution.

A large number of co-defendants have signed up to parts of the claims handling arrangement for vibration white finger claims, and a large proportion of co-defended claims have been settled. In order to resolve more complex co-defended claims a number of initiatives including 'Insurer Liaison' and 'Solicitor Liaison' programmes are in place to try to facilitate speedier progression. In addition, a co-defendant protocol has been negotiated which details the obligations of all parties involved in the progression of claims.

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many former miners' health compensation claims are unresolved. [158793]

Malcolm Wicks: The number of former miners' coal health compensation claims that have not yet been settled for chronic obstructive pulmonary disease claims is 114, 464 and for vibration white finger 11, 669 as at 14 October 2007.

Micro-generation

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his assessment is of the role local authorities can play in increasing the use of micro-generation for supplying energy for domestic and commercial consumption. [159083]

Malcolm Wicks: The Micro-generation Strategy, published in March 2006 commits to tackling the barriers currently preventing widespread uptake of micro-generation. Local authorities have an important role to play, in taking action on their own estate and housing stock, in motivating the wider community to take action and in exercising their planning responsibilities. We have recently published an energy measures report for local authorities compiling information they can use to improve energy efficiency, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase the levels of micro-generation in their communities.

Ministry of Defence Police

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was allocated for training for the Ministry of Defence Police in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and what the projected funding is to be made available for each of the next five years. [156352]

Derek Twigg: I have been asked to reply.

The figures allocated for training for the Ministry of Defence Police in each of the last five years are shown in the following table:

Financial year	*£ million*
2003-04	2.565
2004-05	2.923
2005-06	3.327
2006-07	3.541
2007-08	3.755

The projected figures to be made available for each of the next five years are shown in the following table:

Financial year	*£ million*
2008-09	4.134
2009-10	4.320
2010-11	4.511
2011-12	4.673
2012-13	4.802

The allocations include funding for training staff salaries, professional fees and external training. The figures also include the training allocation for the Ministry of Defence Guard Service, which was fully subsumed into the Ministry of Defence Police and Guarding Agency on 1 April 2004.

Nuclear Power Stations: Decommissioning

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) if he will make a statement on the progress being made by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority on the decommissioning of magnox nuclear power plants; and when he expects work to begin; [158705]

(2) what budget has been allocated by his Department for the decommissioning of magnox nuclear power plants. [158706]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) has set out its plans for decommissioning of the Magnox nuclear power stations in its strategy and successive annual plans. The annual plan for 2007-08 and other documents are available on the NDA website at:

www.nda.gov

Progress against performance is monitored on a continuing basis. Programme Performance Updates are published each month on the NDA website.

Overseas Trade: Maldives

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he *(a)* has taken and *(b)* plans to take to increase trade between the United Kingdom and the Maldives; how much his Department has spent on the promotion of trade between the United Kingdom and the Maldives in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [159644]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) is the body charged with the promotion of UK Trade and Investment opportunities. UKTI do not have a presence on the Maldives nor are any UKTI financial resources specifically dedicated to the promotion of trade with the islands. No change in this position is currently envisaged.

The British high commission in Colombo (Sri Lanka) however does handle all UK trade inquiries on a reactive basis and companies interested in trading with the islands have access to background information via the UKTI portal.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many officials in his Department of each grade worked on the promotion of trade between the United Kingdom and the Maldives in *(a)* 1983, *(b)* 1987, *(c)* 1992, *(d)* 1997, *(e)* each year between 1998 and 2005 and *(f)* at the most recent date for which figures are available. [159645]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI), the body charged with the promotion of UK Trade and Investment opportunities, does not maintain records relating to the past/historical allocation of staff time on the promotion of trade between the United Kingdom and the Maldives.

There is no UKTI presence in the Maldives. Currently all trade inquiries are handled on reactive basis by the Head of Trade and Investment and the Senior Trade and Investment Advisor at the British high commission, Colombo, Sri Lanka. In the previous 12 months the number of inquiries from UK companies relating to the Maldives was five. No inquiries from organisations in the Maldives regarding UK goods and services were received for the same period.

Paedophilia

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what measures were in place before 2005 to prevent known paedophiles from opening a children's agency specialising in theatre, television and modelling; and if he will make a statement. [158456]

Mr. McFadden: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1191W and 1192W. Under the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000 it is an offence to knowingly offer work to or to employ a person in a child care position if they are disqualified from working with children either by virtue of being included on one of the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families

Lists (the Protection of Children Act (PoCA) List or its equivalent in Scotland or List 99) or a disqualification order from the court. Individuals who apply or offer to work, accept work or continue to work with children in such positions will be committing a criminal offence and can face prosecution if they are disqualified from working with children.

The extent to which those running a children's agency specialising in theatre, television and modelling would be covered by the PoCA regulations would depend on the nature of their actual work. However, if a person is deemed to be caring for children under 16 in the course of the children's work they would be in a regulated position and therefore covered by PoCA. Those running children's agencies would therefore normally be covered.

Employment agencies are required to meet the provisions under the Employment Agencies Act 1973 and associated Conduct Regulations.

Since 1995, the Employment Agencies Act 1973 has provided that the former DTI, now BERR, can apply to an employment tribunal for a prohibition order to ban persons found to be unsuitable for misconduct or any other satisfactory reason from running or being concerned with the running of an employment agency.

Post Office: WH Smith

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what contractual requirements relating to disability access have been placed on WH Smith as a result of the franchise agreement with the Post Office Ltd. [153004]

Mr. McFadden: The Post Office Ltd franchise agreement establishes a contractual obligation for WH Smith to comply with the requirements of Part III of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and appropriate health and safety legislation.

WH Smith is committed to working within the spirit of the disability discrimination legislation. To meet the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act they carried out audits at all their sites to assess their accessibility for disabled customers and employees, and have spent around £1.5 million improving access.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether Post Office Ltd. will publish a disability equality scheme in relation to the proposed Crown post office transfers to W H Smith. [153005]

Mr. McFadden: Post Office Ltd. is not considered to be a public authority for the purposes of the Disability Discrimination Act and has no responsibility for producing a disability equality scheme in relation to the Crown Office franchising agreement with WH Smith. WH Smith is working with Post Office Ltd. to ensure access audits are conducted for each site and, where appropriate, reasonable adjustments will be made to ensure disabled people can continue to access post office services.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* health and safety, *(b)* fire safety and *(c)* disability discrimination legislation requirements applying to post offices located in basement W H Smith facilities. [153006]

Mr. McFadden: These are operational matters for W H Smith who are responsible for compliance with the relevant legislation requirements.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions his Department has had with organisations representing older people or those with disabilities on the access implications of the proposed transfer of Crown post offices to W H Smith. [153007]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has not held such discussions. Under the code of practice agreed with Postwatch, Post Office Ltd. consults with a range of local representatives on the customer service implications of transferring the management of a Crown office to a franchise partner.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions his Department has had with Post Office Ltd. on consulting older people or those with disabilities on changes to access arrangements consequent upon the transfer of Crown post office customer services to W H Smith. [153008]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has not held such discussions. Post Office Ltd. is committed, under the code of practice agreed with Postwatch, to consulting with a range of local representatives on the customer service implications of transferring the management of a Crown office to a franchise partner.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what arrangements will be in place to assist customers with special access needs in post office branches which are affected by the franchise agreement reached between Post Office Ltd. and WH Smith. [153582]

Mr. McFadden: Post Office Ltd. has given an assurance that all branches franchised to WH Smith will be compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act and that arrangements will be in place to assist customers with special access needs where the post office counter is not on the ground floor. In the event that a customer is unable to use the lift or the stairs to access the serving positions—alternative arrangements will be available to ensure that they will be served on the ground floor.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what meetings took place between his Department and Post Office Ltd. in which the franchise agreement between WH Smith and Post Office Ltd. was discussed before 19 April; and what such discussions have taken place since that date. [153612]

Mr. McFadden: The franchise agreement between Post Office Ltd. and WH Smith is a commercial matter between them. The company has kept the Department informed, as shareholder, before and after 19 April, of its plans for restoring the Crown office network to profitability.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether as a result of the franchise agreement reached between Post Office Ltd and WH Smith, Post Office Ltd retains responsibility under the Disability Equality Duty applied to public bodies to publish a disability equality scheme and carry out a disability equality impact assessment. [153614]

Mr. McFadden: Post Office Ltd is not considered to be a public authority for the purposes of the Disability Discrimination Act and has no responsibility for producing a disability equality scheme or carrying out disability impact assessments. WH Smith is working with Post Office Ltd to ensure access audits are conducted for each site and where appropriate reasonable adjustments will be made to ensure disabled people can continue to access post office services.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department has had discussions with Post Office Ltd on the completion of a disability equality impact assessment as a result of the Post Office's franchise agreement with WH Smith. [153659]

Mr. McFadden: Post Office Ltd is not considered to be a public authority for the purposes of the Disability Discrimination Act and is not required to carry out disability impact assessments. WH Smith is working with Post Office Ltd to ensure access audits are conducted for each site and, where appropriate, reasonable adjustments will be made to ensure disabled people can continue to access post office services.

Post Offices: Access

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funds Post Office Ltd has made available to improve disability access to stores and new sites to meet its obligations under the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 as a result of the franchise agreement reached between the Post Office Ltd and WH Smith. [153001]

Mr. McFadden: It is the responsibility of each post office franchisee to fund any changes needed in their stores to meet the requirements of disability discrimination legislation. To meet these requirements, WH Smith carried out audits at all their sites during 2003 to assess accessibility for disabled customers and employees. Around £1.5 million has been spent on improving access in stores and all new sites opened since 2003 to meet DDA regulations.

Over the past four years Post Office Ltd have provided £13 million in funding to assist subpostmasters to improve their facilities to meet their obligations under the relevant DDA legislation.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he had with Post Office Ltd on its obligations as a public body under the Disability Discrimination Act 2005 to produce a disability equality scheme prior to 19th April; and what such discussions he has had since that date. [153002]

Mr. McFadden: Post Office Ltd is not considered to be a public authority for the purposes of the Disability Discrimination Act and has no responsibility for producing a disability equality scheme in relation to the Crown Office franchising agreement with WH Smith.

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether Post Office Ltd. has an obligation under the Disability Equality Duty to publish a disability equality scheme for services which it has franchised out to another retailer. [153613]

Mr. McFadden: Post Office Ltd. does not have specific obligations under the Disability Equality Duty and is not required to publish a disability equality scheme. For the purposes of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, the Royal Mail Group is not considered as a public authority.

Royal Mail Group are committed to working to the spirit of existing disability legislation and disability access remains a priority for Post Office Ltd. and they are working with WH Smith to ensure that appropriate measures are taken to ensure reasonable adjustments are made and that disability discrimination legislation is complied with.

Post Offices: Closures

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many of the proposed Post Office closures so far announced in public consultations are located within retail outlets which are part of national retail chains. [159732]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. Alan Cook, the managing director, has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Post Offices: East of England

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many sub-post offices closed in the East of England in each year since 1997, broken down by local authority area. [159211]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. Alan Cook, the managing director, has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Post Offices: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post offices closed in each London constituency in each of the last five years. [153786]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. Alan Cook, the managing director, has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Prices: Information

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which stakeholders he has met as part of the study being carried out with HM Treasury on the economics of information pricing. [159473]

Mr. Thomas: The experts from Cambridge University commissioned to undertake the study on behalf of Government, are meeting stakeholders they consider necessary to inform their work. I have therefore not met stakeholders as part of the study into the availability and charging policy for data held by trading funds.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when his Department's study of the economics of public sector information pricing will be completed. [159474]

Mr. Thomas: The study into the availability and charging policy of data held by trading funds that is being undertaken on behalf of Government is expected to be completed before the end of the year. The results of the study will help inform future Government policy in this area.

Renewables Obligation

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of the UK contribution to the 20 per cent. renewables obligation by 2020 he expects to be generated by decentralised renewable sources. [159389]

Malcolm Wicks: It is too early to estimate what percentage of the UK contribution to the EU 2020 Renewable Energy target will be met by any given renewable source. Once member states' contributions to the target have been agreed, we will bring forward appropriate measures to make our contribution.

Seals: Animal Products

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1267W, on seals: animal products, what progress has been made in the European Commission on the EU-wide ban on the import of seal products; and if he will make a statement. [160030]

Mr. Thomas: The European Commission has two studies in progress: one on the humaneness of seal hunting and the other on the issues surrounding a possible EU-wide ban on the import of seal products including its implementation and enforcement. The first study is expected to report by the end of 2007 and the second in early 2008. Once these have been completed, the Commission will consider whether to propose legislation.

The Government believe that these studies are positive steps towards achieving an EU-wide ban on the import of certain harp and hooded seal products and will continue to make the case for an EU-wide ban as necessary.

UK Trade and Investment: Finance

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what UK's budget for 2007-08 Trade and Investment is, broken down by sector; and how many staff it employs, broken down by sector. [159134]

Mr. Thomas: The total budget for UKTI in 2007-08 is £262 million. We do not attribute our budgets at sector level, but of the £262 million budget, some £191 million is spent on trade promotion across the sectors, from Aerospace to Water as bespoke support for individual companies, and for groups of companies within particular sectors.

UKTI is not an employer in its own right. It draws mainly upon the staff employed by one or other of its two parent Departments—the Foreign and Commonweath Office (FCO), and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). Some 2,225 full-time equivalent (FTE) people work for UKTI, mainly through the two parent Departments. We also use Government Office staff or people with business experience who are under contract to deliver UKTI services. Many front line staff work with companies across a wide range of sectors, and information on the number of staff employed on each sector is therefore not available.

Unfair Practices: Sales

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many businesses have been identified as holding bogus closing down sales in the last 12 months; and what steps have been taken against such businesses. [159136]

Mr. Thomas: Neither the Department nor the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) holds such information.

However, under Part 8 of the Enterprise Act 2002, the OFT, and other enforcers such as local authority trading standards services, have the power to apply for an enforcement order in relation to specific breaches of consumer legislation, including the Control of Misleading Advertisements Regulations 1998, where such a breach harms the collective interests of consumers. This would include an advertisement in a shop window giving the impression that a shop is closing down.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the likely impact of the implementation of the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive on future prosecutions or other action against bogus closing down sales. [159137]

Mr. Thomas: The Unfair Commercial Practices Directive prohibits 31 specific practices outright. These include claiming a trader is about to cease trading or move premises when he is not.

The Directive will be implemented from April 2008 by the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations. Trading Standards Services and the Office of Fair Trading will have a duty to enforce the Regulations. This does not automatically mean that formal (civil or criminal) enforcement action will be taken in respect of each and every infringement. Instead, the duty will oblige enforcers to take steps to promote compliance by the most appropriate means, in line with their enforcement priorities and consistent with available resources.

Unsolicited Goods and Services: Telephones

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what regulation is available to UK households to prevent unsolicited sales telephone calls from overseas; and what estimate has been made of the number of UK companies using such sales methods; [158087]

(2) what *(a)* complaints and *(b)* representations his Department has received about telephone sales cold calling from overseas countries to UK households. [158088]

Mr. Timms: Direct marketing is a legitimate form of business communication. No estimate has been made by Government of the number of UK companies using this method of direct sales. However, companies with a UK presence are legally required not to call a telephone number which has been registered with the telephone preference service (TPS) scheme, irrespective of whether the call is made from within the UK or from outside the UK. Such companies lay themselves open to enforcement action if they breach this requirement.

Under the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003, no one is allowed to make an unsolicited telephone sales call to a subscriber who has either previously notified the caller that they do not wish to receive such calls or who has been registered with the TPS scheme for at least 28 days. The TPS scheme is run by the Direct Marketing Association on behalf of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom). The Information Commissioner has responsibility for enforcement of the regulations by powers in the regulations drawn from the Data Protection Act 1998.

Subscribers registered with the TPS and who receive an unsolicited marketing call may complain to the TPS which reports regularly to the Office of the Information Commissioner (ICO) on the complaints received. Complaints may also be made directly to the ICO.

VAT: Warley

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many VAT *(a)* registrations and *(b)* de-registrations there were in Warley constituency in each of the last five years. [160043]

Mr. Timms: The number of new VAT registrations and de-registrations in the Warley parliamentary constituency are shown in the table for 2001 to 2005, alongside the total number of VAT registered businesses at the start of each year. Data for registrations and de-registrations in 2006 will be published on 14 November 2007.

VAT registrations, de-registrations and stock of VAT registered businesses in Warley parliamentary constituency

Warley parliamentary constituency	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Registrations	180	180	165	210	195	
De-registrations	175	180	165	155	160	
Start of year stock	1,590	1,595	1,595	1,595	1,650	1,685

Source:
Business start-ups and closures: VAT registrations and de-registrations 1994-2005 available at: http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat/index.htm

Although the number of registrations and de-registrations has fluctuated over the period, the total number of VAT registered businesses in Warley parliamentary constituency has increased from 1,590 at the start of 2001 to 1,685 in 2005, an increase of 95 (6 per cent.).

VAT registration and de-registration data provides the only accurate indicator of the level of business start-up and closure activity at the parliamentary constituency level.

However, VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £60,000 at the start of 2006. Only 1.9 million out of 4.5 million UK enterprises (41 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2006.

Winfrith Nuclear Research Establishment

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what effect the time taken to decommission the Winfrith site will have on future decisions on a new generation of nuclear power stations; [158481]

(2) when he expects the Winfrith nuclear site to be decommissioned; and if he will make a statement. [158483]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* The Government have carried out a consultation on the future of nuclear power and no decisions will be taken on new nuclear power stations until the responses have been analysed and considered.

The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) has set out its proposals for the decommissioning of Winfrith in its strategy and successive annual plans. The annual plan for 2007-08 and other documents are available on the NDA website at:

www.nda.gov

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what options his Department considered for the delivery of the academies programme other than Partnerships for Schools. [159793]

Jim Knight: The options considered for the future delivery of the procurement of academies included retaining this work within the Department, contracting out these services, developing a new non-departmental public body, and Partnerships for Schools delivering this work alongside the delivery of Building Schools for the Future.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which Minister took the decision to transfer the delivery of the Academies programme to Partnerships for Schools. [159795]

Jim Knight: Final ministerial agreement to implement the new procurement model for academies was given by the right hon. Ruth Kelly, the then Secretary of State for Education and Skills. This was announced in the House on 23 March 2006.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether funding for the running costs of a city academy co-sponsored by a local authority is provided directly by his Department once the school is opened. [159947]

Jim Knight: Most recurrent funding for academies is provided directly by my Department; local authorities provide individually assigned resources for named pupils with special educational needs and—on behalf of the Department—also pass on to academies certain specific grants. The identity of the sponsor or sponsors does not affect these arrangements.

Assessments: Curriculum

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what effect the introduction of Key Stage 2 tests has had on the number of hours spent teaching non-tested subjects to Key Stage 2 pupils; and if he will make a statement. [158886]

Jim Knight: The focus on English, mathematics and science in the curriculum and assessment at Key Stage 2 reflects the importance of securing a firm grounding in these subjects to the future prospects of young people in education and the world of work.

There is no evidence to suggest that good test results can be achieved only by narrowing the curriculum. Ofsted has noted that many schools which perform well in the tests are also delivering a broad curriculum and offering lively and inspiring teaching across all subjects.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Sports

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent under the Building Schools for the Future programme on sports facilities. [159454]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 19 October 2007]:* Records of Building Schools for the Future expenditure on specific elements of local authority projects are not held centrally.

Our delivery partner, Partnerships for Schools, is working with Sport England, the Youth Sport Trust and local authorities to ensure that physical education and sport is fully recognised in BSF projects. The strategic development of PE and Sports facilities is integral to the BSF educational vision.

Children: Disadvantaged

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects *(a)* to roll out the new nurse-family partnerships and *(b)* to allocate the £670 million two year provision which he announced in his recent speech in Bournemouth; and if he will make a statement. [157477]

Beverley Hughes: The Government continue to trial the family nurse partnerships in England and an increasing number of families are being enrolled in the pilot programmes. The next stage of the current pilots is being considered in the context of the recently announced spending review settlements. Further announcements will be made before the end of the year.

'Aiming High for Young People: A Ten Year Strategy for Positive Activities' was launched on 26 July 2007. The strategy and accompanying press release detailed the outcome of the comprehensive spending review (CSR) in relation to services for young people which over the three year CSR period, 2008-09 to 2010-11 will provide an additional £184 million alongside continuing funding of £3,495 million—a total of £679 million. This will support a range of initiatives and will be allocated to a variety of delivery agents in a number of different ways ahead of the start of the next financial year. Details of local authorities' share of these additional resources will be announced as part of the Local Government finance settlement in the autumn.

Class Sizes: East of England

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the pupil-teacher ratio was in each local education authority in the East of England at key stage *(a)* 1, *(b)* 2 and *(c)* 3 in each year since 1997. [159217]

Jim Knight: The requested information is not available. The following table provides the pupil:teacher ratios within maintained primary and secondary schools in local authority areas within the East of England, January 1997 to 2007.

Pupil: Teacher ratios[1] in maintained schools[2] by local authority area in east of England

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Primary[3]											
England	23.4	23.7	23.5	23.3	22.9	22.5	22.6	22.7	22.5	22.0	21.8
East of England	23.0	23.3	23.3	23.1	22.8	22.7	22.8	22.9	22.7	22.2	22.1
Former Bedfordshire	23.3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bedfordshire	—	23.8	23.8	23.5	22.9	22.3	22.6	22.8	23.0	22.2	22.1
Luton	—	22.7	22 6	22.3	22.9	22.7	23.5	23.5	23.4	23.6	22.8
Former Cambridgeshire	24.4	24.9	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	25.0	24.6	24.1	23.3	23.7	23.6	23.6	22.9	22.2

Pupil:Teacher ratios[1] in maintained schools[2] by local authority area in east of England

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Peterborough	—	—	24.2	23.2	23.0	22.9	23.1	23.2	22.5	21.9	21.8
Former Essex	23.0	23.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Essex	—	—	23.5	23.2	22.9	22.8	23.0	23.2	22.9	22.5	22.4
Southend-on-Sea	—	—	24.0	23.4	23.5	23.0	23.3	22.8	23.0	22.2	22.1
Thurrock	—	—	23.9	22.8	22.8	21.8	23.6	24.9	25.0	23.3	22.8
Hertfordshire	22.9	23.0	23.0	23.2	23.0	22.8	23.0	23.0	22.5	22.4	23.2
Norfolk	22.3	22.5	22.7	22.7	22.1	23.0	21.7	22.3	22.1	21.3	21.1
Suffolk	22.3	22.2	22.0	22.1	22.0	21.5	21.7	21.7	21.5	21.1	20.7
Secondary[3]											
England	16.77	16.9	17.0	17.2	17.1	16.9	17.0	17.0	16.7	16.6	16.5
East of England	16.6	16.7	16.9	17.2	17.4	17.5	17.5	17.7	17.5	17.3	17.2
Bedfordshire	17.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bedfordshire	—	18.3	18.5	18.7	18.8	18.4	18.7	18.4	18.7	18.3	18.0
Luton	—	16.7	16.9	17.3	17.9	18.0	17.9	17.7	18.5	17.8	18.6
Former Cambridgeshire	17.4	17.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	18.1	18.7	18.7	18.1	18.2	18.7	18.3	18.2	18.3
Peterborough	—	—	16.7	17.1	17.2	17.3	17.4	17.0	16.9	16.5	16.5
Former Essex	16.6	16.7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Essex	—	—	16.8	17.2	17.5	17.5	17.6	18.0	17.4	17.3	17.3
Southend-on-Sea	—	—	16.4	16.9	16.8	17.2	17.3	17.7	17.9	18.2	18.2
Thurrock	—	—	18.0	18.5	18.9	19.8	19.8	20.8	19.9	18.7	19.0
Hertfordshire	15.9	16.1	16.3	16.6	16.7	16.8	17.0	17.1	16.8	16.7	16.4
Norfolk	15.7	16.1	16.2	16.6	16.9	17.5	17.1	17.3	17.6	17.0	17.2
Suffolk	16.6	16.5	16.6	16.9	17.1	16.9	16.9	17.2	17.0	17.2	17.0

[1] The PTRs for each of LA maintained primary and secondary schools relate FTE pupil numbers in these schools to FTE qualified teacher numbers in these schools, from the School Census. The School Census includes teachers normally employed, within schools, in the survey week.
[2] Excludes CTCs and academies.
[3] Includes middle schools as deemed.
Source:
School Census

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average *(a)* middle school and *(b)* upper school class size was in each constituency in the East of England in each year since 1997. [159218]

Jim Knight: The available information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Curriculum: Citizenship

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Scotland and *(b)* his counterpart in the Scottish Executive on delivery of a UK-wide (i) curriculum for citizenship education and (ii) "Who do we think we are?" week in schools. [158772]

Jim Knight: DCSF Ministers meet regularly with Scottish counterparts to discuss a range of issues. There have been discussions at official level about the Citizenship curriculum. Plans for the "Who do we think we are?" week are in their initial stages.

Departments: Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many citizens' juries have been arranged by his Department since June 2007; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the estimated cost is of each exercise. [159497]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families has conducted five citizens' juries since June 2007. Opinion Leader Research were appointed to facilitate the events which took the form of deliberative debates. The cost for the first jury in Bristol was £57,047 including VAT. The total costs for the four deliberative debates in London, Leeds, Portsmouth and Birmingham was £467,704 including VAT.

Education: Finance

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons the national basic need allocation of £400 million has not been increased since 1995. [159582]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 19 October 2007]:* The national basic need allocation should be looked at in the context of our total schools capital spending programmes. This year, capital investment has risen to £6.4 billion, and is planned to rise to £8.2 billion by 2010-11. Further information on capital allocations for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11 is set out in my statement of 10 October.

The Basic Need programme is not ring-fenced, and forms part of local authorities' single capital pot. Local authorities can add their basic need allocation to the other devolved allocations mentioned in my statement, including modernisation. They will also usually have their own resources which can be used to both upgrade existing facilities and to expand where necessary.

In addition to Basic Need, Building Schools for the Future, the Academies programme, Primary Capital programme and the Learning and Skills Council's 16-19 fund, also support new pupil places.

This balance of programmes will enable local authorities to improve schools across the country and provide extra places where required.

Education: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will publish the minutes of the meeting held between the Secretary of State for Education and the delegation from Milton Keynes held on 19 June. [159581]

Jim Knight: The Secretary of State for Education and Skills met a delegation from Milton Keynes on 19 June to discuss school funding. No formal minutes of the meeting exist.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the basic need capital allocations are for Milton Keynes Unitary Authority for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2010-11; and what they were for the previous two allocation periods. [159583]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 19 October 2007]:* The basic need capital allocations for Milton Keynes unitary authority for the periods 2003-04 to 2010-11 are set out in the following table, together with total capital allocations to the local authority and its schools for this period.

£ million

Description	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Basic need	12.6	5.8	17.2	31.4	32.6	10.1	10.1	10.1
Other allocations	16.5	33.3	13.6	21.1	9.8	9.9	13.6	17.4
Total	29.1	39.1	30.8	52.5	42.4	20.0	23.7	27.5

Total allocations for the period 2008-09 to 2010-11 also include the new primary programme, the new extended schools programme, and the ICT harnessing technology grant.

The basic need budget is allocated to local authorities on the basis of the relative need of each. Relative need is calculated on the number of existing pupil numbers and on the forecast increase in pupil numbers as supplied by local authorities. The exceptionally large allocation of basic need in 2006-07 and 2007-08 was due to (a) forecast growth figures submitted by Milton Keynes and (b) relatively low demand in this period from other local authorities.

Milton Keynes will have the opportunity to bid for more basic need in the spending review period 2008-09 to 2010-11 through the basic need safety valve mechanism, if it can demonstrate exceptional growth. It can also apply for funding for new sixth-form places to the Learning and Skills Council. It should also supplement departmental allocations from sources available locally such as section 106 planning gain capital receipts, and prudential borrowing.

Heartsease School Norwich

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much has been spent on consultation exercises carried out by *(a)* Cambridge Education Associates and *(b)* Norfolk county council on the Heartsease school closure. [159093]

Jim Knight: The Department does not collect information on expenditure incurred by local authorities during the consultation or publication stages of proposals for changes to local school organisation, including school closures.

The consultation conducted by Cambridge Education on behalf of the Department was not on the Heartsease school closure, but on the proposals for a new academy. The amount expended on this non statutory consultation was £43,363 plus VAT. This formed part of the overall budget for the feasibility study, details of which were provided in answer to the hon. Member's previous question, No.139086.

Nursery Schools

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1-5WS, on schools, early years and 14-16 funding (2008-2011), for what reasons local authority assessments of the cost of delivering free early years entitlement in the private and voluntary sector will be carried out; what use will be made of the results of these assessments; and when he plans to publish the results. [159587]

Beverley Hughes: Local authority assessments on the cost of delivering the free early years entitlement will be carried out as part of a series of changes to how local authorities fund the free entitlement between now and 2011. We expect each local authority to analyse the cost of delivering the free entitlement in private, voluntary and independent settings, in the run-up to agreeing local budgets for April 2008 onwards. Schools Forums will need to consider this information as part of their budget process. It is therefore for local authorities to decide if they wish to publish the information.

Roads: Safety

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what recent

representations he has received on introducing road safety as a compulsory part of the national curriculum; and whether this issue is being reviewed; [159516]

(2) whether there are any plans to introduce road safety as a compulsory part of the national curriculum; and if he will make a statement. [159517]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 19 October 2007]:* The Department has in 2007 received no specific representations on introducing road safety as a compulsory part of the National Curriculum.

The secondary school curriculum has been reviewed this year by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. The revised curriculum, to be phased in from September 2008, includes new programmes of study for Personal Social Health and Economic Education. There is scope to cover road safety through the key concept of risk where pupils are taught that the

'ability to recognise, assess and manage risk is essential to physical safety'.

The Department's "Safety Education: Guidance for schools" advises how schools can deliver safety education, which would include road safety education, within the framework for Personal, Social and Health Education. Beyond that it also highlights how other parts of the national curriculum can be used to develop children's ability to assess and control risks to themselves and others.

In view of the curriculum review, we do not plan to review our position on making road safety a compulsory part of the national curriculum. We will continue to work with the Department for Transport and others on ways to support the effective delivery of safety education within the curriculum.

Runaway Children: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children ran away from their homes in each London borough in each of the last 10 years; and how many have subsequently returned home. [158818]

Kevin Brennan: Statistics on the numbers of all children who are reported as missing are not collected centrally. The Children's Society estimates that each year in the UK 100,000 children run away or are forced to leave home to escape problems.

A new national indicator on young people who have run away from their homes or care overnight is included in the national indicators that will underpin the new performance framework for local authorities. This was published on 11 October 2007.

We are considering a number of different options to gather data on children and young people who run away in connection with the new indicator, working closely with the Home Office, the police, local authorities and other relevant agencies.

The Home Office has been working with the Association of Chief Police Officers and Missing People (the former National Missing Persons Helpline) to establish joint working arrangements to improve the recording, sharing and exchange of information, to improve the way in which missing persons are dealt with, and to inform our understanding of the problem in order to develop strategies to address it. Part of this work includes establishment of a comprehensive national police database of missing and unidentified people reported either to the police or Missing People, which the National Policing Improvement Agency is taking forward.

Schools: Shropshire

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was allocated to schools in 2006 in Shropshire Local Education Authority area. [159165]

Jim Knight: The Normanton area falls within the Wakefield local authority and the information supplied is the level of funding which applies to all of Wakefield. At the start of the 2006-07 financial year, Wakefield local authority allocated £183 million (£182,947,594) of revenue funding to its maintained nursery, primary, secondary and special schools. This comprises of the Total Budget Share plus any School Standards Grant, School Development Grant, Other Standards Fund Allocation, Devolved School Meals Grant, Targeted School Meals Grant, Threshold and Performance Pay and Support for Schools in Financial Difficulty allocated to the school at the start of the 2006-07 financial year. This does not include any capital funding allocated to schools.

Schools: Transport

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families who is responsible for monitoring the implementation of school travel plans; and if he will make a statement. [159514]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 19 October 2007]:* Since 2003, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Transport (DfT) have worked together on the 'Travelling to School Initiative' (TTSI). The initiative has sought to increase the proportion of pupils travelling to school sustainably (walking, cycling, on the bus) by helping schools to develop School Travel Plans identifying what can be done in each school, for each pupil, to support sustainable travel.

Once completed. School Travel Plans are quality assured against criteria approved by the TTSI Project Board. The board monitor the quality and implementation of School Travel Plans, utilising a network of Regional and School Travel Advisers. DCSF and DfT Jointly fund local authority based School Travel Advisers who help schools carry out surveys and prepare plans.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of schools have school travel plans in place. [159515]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 19 October 2007]:* At 31 March 2007, 14,063 schools (56 per cent.) had approved school travel plans in place.

Sports: Training

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many specialist sports colleges have been established. [159702]

Jim Knight: There are 435 specialist sports colleges. 370 schools with sport as its main specialism, 25 schools with sport as part of a combined specialism, 26 schools which have chosen sport as a second specialism, and a further 14 academies which have sport as their focus.

JUSTICE

Deaths in Custody

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many juveniles died in custody as a result of *(a)* natural causes, *(b)* self-harm, *(c)* accidents and *(d)* violence committed by a third party in each year since 1997. [158957]

Mr. Hanson: Information in respect of deaths in prison custody of prisoners under the age of 18 is provided in the following table:

Juvenile deaths in custody (all male)

Classification	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Other non- natural (inc. accidents)	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Homicide	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Natural causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Self-inflicted	1	3	2	3	3	2	—	1	2	—

Concerning 2007: To 17 October there here have been no deaths of prisoners aged under 18—please note that while the table shows no deaths resulting from accidents, one self-inflicted death from 2001 and one from 2002, both involving hanging, had inquest findings of accident (inquest findings from 2005 still awaited).

Departments: Road Traffic Offences

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many fixed penalty tickets were incurred by vehicles within the purview of his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the total cost was. [157768]

Maria Eagle: Since the Ministry of Justice was only formed on 9 May 2007, my response refers to the former Department for Constitutional Affairs (DCA) and those bodies which were formerly part of the Home Office which are now part of the new Department. I also refer the hon. Member to the response provided by the Department for Transport in respect of vehicles provided by GCDA.

The policy across the Ministry of Justice is that responsibility for payment of fixed penalty tickets rests with the driver of the vehicle. Only certain fixed penalty tickets are notified to the Department as registered owners of the vehicle. Those records show that for the financial year 2006-07, which is the most recent year for which figures were available, 400 penalty tickets were issued, the value of those tickets was £8,373.

Departments: Secondment

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff are seconded to his Department from outside government; from which outside body each has been seconded; and what the length is of each secondment. [157769]

Maria Eagle: The information requested for Ministry of Justice headquarters, National Offender Management Service, the Office for Criminal Justice Reform and Her Majesty's Prison Service is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, no employees at Her Majesty's Land Registry and the National Archives are seconded from outside Government.

Electoral Register: Scotland

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to ensure that returning officers are maximising participation in the compilation of electoral registers in Scotland. [159184]

Bridget Prentice: Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) are responsible for compiling electoral registers in Scotland. Section 9 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (EAA 2006), sets out the necessary steps that all EROs must follow to ensure that eligible electors are registered to vote.

These steps include sending the canvass form more than once to any address, conducting house to house inquiries and making contact by such other means as appropriate, EROs will adopt an approach, which is appropriate to local circumstances, within the context of the necessary steps.

Section 67 of the EAA 2006 allows the Electoral Commission (EC) to set and monitor performance standards for electoral services. During September 2007, the EC published a set of electoral registration indicators. EROs will provide data against these indicators following completion of the 2007 annual canvass and the EC will publish its first assessment of the data by April 2008. This should help to provide a picture of the activities undertaken by EROs to maximise participation in their areas.

Police Custody: Wales

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the average cost per prisoner night was of holding prisoners overnight in facilities in Cardiff court buildings since the start of 2007; and if he will make a statement; [158977]

(2) how many prisoners have been held overnight in facilities in Cardiff court buildings in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [158978]

Mr. Hanson: Court cell places are readied for use on a stand-by basis as a measure of last resort to help ensure that exceptional population pressures can be managed safely and securely. A total of £26,324.32 (excluding VAT) has been paid to our contractors to make places available in court cells in Cardiff between 11 June and 2 July.

This provided for the availability of 10 places over a period of 21 nights. Eight prisoners were held in court cells in Cardiff on the night of 11/12 June. This is the only occasion on which prisoners were held overnight in court cells in Cardiff so far this year.

Prisoners

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) where women prisoners from North Wales have served their sentence in each of the last three years for which figures are available; [159346]

(2) where prisoners sentenced in courts in North Wales to terms of imprisonment served their sentence in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [159347]

Mr. Hanson: Prisoners serve their sentences at a variety of establishments according to their sentence plan. It is not possible to identify all such locations without incurring disproportionate cost.

However, as at 19 September 2007, the following table applies:

Location of sentenced females originating from North Wales in prison establishments in England

Prison	
Styal	16
Drake Hall	7
Low Newton	3
Askham Grange	2
New Hall	2
Peterborough	2
Total	32

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of prisoners housed in Wales had home addresses in other parts of the United Kingdom immediately prior to their imprisonment in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [159350]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the estimated percentage of prisoners held in prisons in Wales who have a home address in other parts of the United Kingdom in September 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Where no home address is listed for a prisoner the committal court is used as a proxy address.

	Percentage of prisoners held in prisons in Wales who have a home address in other parts of the United Kingdom
2005	23
2006	20
2007	18

Prisoner Transfers: Young People

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young offenders attached to Welsh young offending teams were transferred between secure accommodation units during their sentence *(a)* in each of the last 12 months and *(b)* in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [158969]

Mr. Hanson: The data requested is not collected centrally and could not be obtained without disproportionate cost, as it would be necessary to collate and analyse all transfer records for the periods in question and to identify which youth offending team area each young person was attached to.

Prisoners: Drugs

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of the prison population is undergoing treatment for drug addiction. [159006]

Mr. Hanson: The table provides an estimate of the percentage of all those received into prison in 2005-06 who underwent drug treatment.

These figures must be seen in context. Around 55 per cent. of those received into prison report a serious drug problem, with 80 per cent. reporting some misuse in the year prior to prison. Of those, not all will need certain types of treatment, some do not engage in treatment and many are not in prison long enough to benefit. Drug treatment is delivered in accordance with identified need.

A comprehensive drug treatment framework is in place: (i) clinical services (maintenance-prescribing and/or detoxification programmes), available in all local and remand prisons; (ii) CARATs (Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Through-care services), provided in all prisons: and (iii) 116 drug rehabilitation programmes running across the estate (of which 42 are the Short Duration Programme (SDP), designed primarily for those spending only a short period in custody).

Intervention	*2005-06*	*Percentage of prison population undergoing drug treatment based on 2005 reception figures of 132,058*
Clinical services entrants to maintenance-prescribing/ detoxification programmes	53,773	40.7
CARATs-initial assessments	[1]74,720	56.6
Drug rehabilitation programmes-entrants	10,743	8.1

[1] Of which 8,709 juvenile element.

Notes:

1. Prison reception figures are available for the calendar year of 2005, in comparison the prison drug treatment figures are available for the financial year of 2005-06. The two figures are not a direct match and must therefore be treated with a degree of caution.
2. Individual prisoners may engage in more than one type of treatment.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* non-UK nationals and *(b)* non-EU nationals there are in prisons in England and Wales. [159356]

Mr. Hanson: At the end of June 2007 there were 11,097 foreign nationals in all prison establishments in England and Wales. Of this total, there were 8,638 non-EU nationals.

These data were published in June's monthly population in custody report on the Ministry of Justice website.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Restraint Techniques

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what physical restraint techniques are permitted for use on adult prisoners. [158956]

Mr. Hanson: The physical restraint techniques permitted for use on adult prisoners are control and restraint techniques (C and R). These involve a variety of defensive and disarming techniques ranging from simple breakaway techniques through to defensive strikes and defence against improvised weapons and firearms. For reasons of security the Prison Service does not disclose details of the individual techniques used in C and R.

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the nose distraction technique has been approved for use on adult prisoners. [158959]

Mr. Hanson: The nose distraction technique has been authorised for use on adult prisoners. As with all authorised control and restraint techniques it is authorised for use only by trained staff on violent or refractory prisoners.

Prisons: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people are in prison in the Greater London area; and what the capacity of Greater London prisons is. [159002]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the numbers of prisoners detained in and the operational capacity of each prison establishment in the Greater London area on 31 August 2007.

	Operational capacity	*Population*[1]
Belmarsh	918	920
Brixton	798	807
Feltham	764	613
Holloway	501	488
Latchmere House	207	196
Pentonville	1,152	1,145
Wandsworth	1,475	1,482
Wormwood Scrubs	1,256	1,262
Total	7,071	6,913

[1] The reported population figure may be higher than the operational capacity as it may include prisoners on authorised absence and not held in the prison overnight.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisons: Labour Turnover

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of staff in prisons resigned from each prison establishment in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [158974]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the number of staff who resigned from each prison establishment and the proportion of total staff this represented in each year since 2001-02 is contained in the following tables.

Number and proportion of all staff resigning 2001-02 to 2006-07

Public Sector

	Resignations						*Percentage of staff*					
Establishment	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Acklington	8	14	13	14	14	13	2	4	3	3	3	3
Albany	13	5	10	10	7	11	5	2	3	3	2	3
Ashwell	19	16	22	27	24	27	9	7	8	10	9	9
Askham Grange	9	5	6	5	8	4	11	6	8	6	9	4
Aylesbury	21	13	15	16	15	15	7	4	4	5	4	4
Bedford	36	28	11	13	13	20	15	11	4	5	5	8
Belmarsh	51	43	32	27	22	21	6	5	4	3	2	2
Birmingham	18	17	40	37	34	34	4	4	7	5	4	4
Blakenhurst	18	26	37	37	44	24	—	9	12	9	10	5
Blantyre House	2	3	4	0	3	3	3	4	5	0	4	4
Blundeston	10	10	8	11	16	18	4	4	3	4	5	6
Brinsford	16	21	14	16	7	17	4	5	3	4	2	4
Bristol	26	16	24	20	35	18	5	3	5	4	7	4
Brixton	33	29	29	31	28	18	7	6	8	8	7	4
Brockhill	15	13	9	19	9	10	9	8	5	9	5	6

Number and proportion of all staff resigning 2001-02 to 2006-07

	Public Sector											
	Resignations						Percentage of staff					
Establishment	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Buckley Hall	15	6	11	13	16	9	8	3	5	5	7	4
Bullingdon	44	30	27	24	33	27	11	7	7	6	7	6
Bullwood Hall	10	10	13	13	17	19	7	6	8	7	9	11
Camp Hill	18	10	15	14	10	15	7	4	5	5	3	5
Canterbury	9	5	14	7	15	12	5	3	7	4	7	6
Cardiff	7	13	15	22	20	25	2	3	4	5	4	5
Castington	16	12	10	14	16	7	5	3	3	4	4	2
Channings Wood	5	19	25	11	17	13	2	6	7	3	5	4
Chelmsford	15	20	26	26	25	29	5	6	8	8	7	8
Coldingley	11	7	6	10	6	9	5	3	3	5	3	4
Cookham Wood	7	8	10	11	17	12	7	9	10	10	13	8
Dartmoor	8	11	17	18	18	16	2	3	5	5	5	4
Deerbolt	10	21	13	23	15	11	4	7	4	7	4	3
Dorchester	7	6	5	13	6	6	4	4	3	7	3	3
Dover	6	6	4	6	8	7	3	3	2	2	3	3
Downview	11	15	14	9	10	7	5	9	7	4	4	3
Drake Hall	8	19	21	15	9	14	5	10	11	7	5	7
Durham	9	17	15	12	17	23	1	2	2	2	3	4
East Sutton Park	6	8	7	6	11	7	10	13	12	8	15	11
Eastwood Park	18	31	22	27	28	18	8	13	9	11	11	7
Edmunds Hill	3	8	22	16	15	28	—	6	14	7	7	11
Elmley	32	23	28	29	27	16	7	5	6	6	6	3
Erlestoke	13	13	28	20	12	16	7	7	13	8	5	7
Everthorpe	3	11	12	16	16	20	1	5	5	6	5	6
Exeter	20	17	15	17	17	18	6	5	5	5	5	5
Featherstone	9	5	7	19	13	19	3	2	2	6	4	6
Feltham	53	37	40	60	41	41	8	6	6	7	5	5
Ford	7	4	10	12	11	5	4	2	5	7	6	3
Foston Hall	19	12	17	18	14	18	10	7	9	8	6	8
Frankland	14	15	16	19	30	19	2	2	2	2	3	2
Full Sutton	18	27	37	29	32	17	2	3	5	4	4	2
Garth	15	6	13	17	18	15	4	1	3	4	4	3
Gartree	17	12	10	17	17	14	6	5	4	6	6	4
Glen Parva	13	24	27	30	24	32	3	5	5	6	4	6
Gloucester	21	21	16	18	16	11	10	10	7	8	7	5
Grendon	21	10	25	19	14	17	6	3	8	6	4	5
Guys Marsh	11	20	20	10	25	24	4	8	7	3	9	8
Haslar	3	6	4	9	4	8	4	7	4	8	4	8
Haverigg	6	8	4	14	13	21	2	3	1	5	4	6
Hewell Grange	2	4	3	6	3	2	2	5	4	6	3	2
High Down	52	36	27	15	24	30	9	7	5	3	5	7
Highpoint	34	37	32	23	31	27	7	10	8	5	7	6
Hindley	11	23	26	21	24	16	3	5	6	5	5	4
Hollesley Bay	16	15	4	6	6	4	5	4	4	6	5	3
Holloway	36	30	21	31	26	16	7	6	4	6	5	3
Holme House	13	19	14	25	23	11	3	4	3	5	4	2
Hull	9	19	26	18	26	20	2	4	4	3	4	4
Huntercombe	31	29	25	21	18	27	12	11	9	7	6	9
Kingston	7	3	2	9	9	3	5	2	1	6	6	2
Kirkham	6	5	10	15	12	17	3	2	4	5	4	6
Kirklevington Grange	5	3	6	5	4	9	6	3	6	4	3	8
Lancaster	0	8	10	8	8	5	0	5	6	4	4	3
Lancaster Farms	12	22	13	19	17	17	3	6	3	4	4	4
Latchmere House	8	7	2	8	3	7	11	8	3	10	4	9
Leeds	24	22	25	30	28	13	3	3	4	4	4	22
Leicester	11	9	19	14	12	4	4	4	8	6	5	2
Lewes	17	32	17	16	14	14	6	11	5	5	4	5

Number and proportion of all staff resigning 2001-02 to 2006-07

Public Sector

	Resignations						*Percentage of staff*					
Establishment	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Leyhill	8	13	16	15	12	21	4	7	7	7	5	9
Lincoln	10	10	11	27	15	9	3	3	3	7	4	2
Lindholme	34	30	25	31	25	27	8	7	6	7	5	5
Littlehey	13	12	18	28	24	15	5	4	6	9	7	5
Liverpool	10	11	23	23	22	22	1	1	3	3	3	3
Long Lartin	28	30	26	29	26	18	4	4	4	4	4	3
Low Newton	9	8	17	18	14	5	4	4	6	6	5	2
Maidstone	16	19	30	12	17	20	5	6	9	4	5	6
Manchester	24	16	21	18	30	36	3	2	3	2	4	4
Moorland	21	9	9	17	9	16	4	2	1	3	1	3
Morton Hall	2	17	22	23	9	11	1	12	10	10	4	5
New Hall	31	24	32	22	24	22	11	8	9	6	6	5
North Sea Camp	3	7	6	10	6	16	3	7	5	7	4	11
Northallerton	12	5	11	16	13	12	7	4	8	11	9	8
Norwich	18	18	18	28	27	17	4	4	4	6	6	4
Nottingham	13	16	10	12	23	15	4	5	3	3	6	4
Onley	28	33	18	30	26	30	7	8	4	7	7	8
Parkhurst	11	18	13	18	9	15	3	5	4	5	2	4
Pentonville	44	42	32	37	45	39	8	7	5	6	7	6
Portland	8	14	9	20	17	9	3	4	3	6	5	2
Preston	13	10	31	19	18	25	3	3	8	5	4	6
Ranby	7	16	20	27	39	12	2	4	4	5	7	2
Reading	10	22	12	6	14	15	5	11	6	3	7	7
Risley	21	29	19	20	27	15	4	6	4	4	5	3
Rochester	21	18	17	15	19	13	7	6	6	5	6	4
Send	12	8	11	10	8	11	9	6	8	7	5	7
Shepton Mallet	6	7	15	15	12	16	4	5	10	11	8	11
Shrewsbury	3	10	7	8	10	6	1	5	3	4	4	3
Stafford	7	10	17	7	17	12	2	3	5	2	5	3
Standford Hill	7	12	15	9	12	8	3	6	6	4	5	3
Stocken	14	15	17	14	19	19	5	6	6	5	6	6
Stoke Heath	13	22	21	32	39	33	3	5	5	7	9	8
Styal	19	21	29	22	40	25	6	6	9	6	11	7
Sudbury	5	6	9	7	12	4	3	3	5	3	6	2
Swaleside	25	28	16	11	15	20	6	7	4	3	4	5
Swansea	9	6	14	13	13	12	4	3	6	5	5	4
Swinfen Hall	8	10	14	27	26	25	3	4	6	9	6	6
The Mount	32	24	27	31	28	17	10	8	8	10	9	5
The Verne	12	14	10	10	8	7	4	5	3	4	3	2
Thorn Cross	6	9	7	10	9	18	3	4	3	5	4	8
Usk/Prescoed	7	6	14	5	4	16	4	3	7	2	2	6
Wakefield	10	14	19	9	17	19	2	2	3	1	3	3
Wandsworth	37	37	35	36	28	21	5	6	5	5	4	3
Warren Hill	[1]—	[1]—	24	15	8	8	—	—	9	6	3	3
Wayland	14	9	7	9	17	17	5	3	2	3	5	5
Wealstun	13	14	16	29	21	15	4	5	5	7	5	4
Weare	14	13	8	19	12	1	7	6	4	9	6	6
Wellingborough	22	25	21	25	19	28	8	9	8	9	6	8
Werrington	4	11	12	9	14	12	3	6	7	5	8	6
Wetherby	10	18	15	24	30	18	4	7	5	8	9	6
Whatton	7	7	11	16	7	19	5	5	6	8	3	5
Whitemoor	35	25	26	26	37	29	5	3	3	3	5	4
Winchester	17	21	18	24	17	16	5	6	5	6	4	4
Woodhill	41	24	26	28	26	20	6	4	4	4	4	3
Wormwood Scrubs	25	26	43	42	25	24	4	5	8	7	4	4
Wymott	6	13	13	23	21	31	1	3	3	5	4	6

[1] Establishment not open as a separate entity

	Private Sector											
	Resignations						Percentage of staff					
Establishment	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Altcourse	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	49	41	33	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	11	9	7
Ashfield	119	135	99	115	127	92	45	46	31	27	30	21
Bronzefield[3]	[2]—	[2]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Doncaster	169	100	102	54	94	89	12	12	13	27	11	10
Dovegate	58	183	192	149	131	106	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	33	29	26
Forest Bank[3]	[2]—	[2]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[2]—	[2]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Lowdham Grange	84	56	70	38	94	79	32	21	26	14	33	29
Parc	22	43	40	24	29	32	8	17	14	8	10	11
Peterborough[3]	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Rye Hill	[1]—	93	89	71	97	39	[1]—	39	37	30	41	16
Wolds	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	20	13	17	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	12	8	8

[1] Data not available.
[2] Establishment not open as a separate entity.
[3] Resignations are not recorded separately from all leavers in these establishments.

Prisons: Visits

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the National Offender Management Service has taken in response to representations from the Prisoners' Families Helpline as regards visit booking arrangements at HMPs Risley, Wandsworth and New Hall. [159143]

Mr. Hanson: New Hall has undertaken a thorough review of its systems following representations from the Prisoners' Family Helpline. Booking hours have been extended and no subsequent complaints have been received since implementation on 27 September 2007.

At Wandsworth solutions are being sought to speed up the booking process and, since 2006, both remand and convicted prisoners are able to book their own visits internally. It is also open to all visitors to book their next visit before they leave Wandsworth.

Risley has taken measures to improve and speed up its system and introduced a second booking line, and a further member of staff to double their capacity for taking calls.

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will commission a report from the National Offender Management Service on the steps it is taking to provide an effective booking system for prison visits; [159146]

(2) if he will require the National Offender Management Service to set minimum standards for the prison visit bookings system; and if he will make a statement; [159147]

(3) what information the National Offender Management Service collects on the efficacy of the visit booking arrangements at individual prisons. [159148]

Mr. Hanson: There are no plans to commission a report from the Prison Service, which holds policy responsibility for these matters on behalf of NOMS. The Prison Service is aware of the difficulties many visitors experience when trying to book visits. The procedures and resources for booking visits are at the discretion of governors and directors in each prison, although they are required to have an efficient system in place.

The Prison Service has been pursuing improvements to visits booking and alternative options are currently being explored. In 2006, guidelines were sent to all establishments setting out practical ways of improving visits booking, and an IT package has been made available to streamline the process. Prisons also have facilities to enable booking by e-mail to ease pressure on the telephone booking lines.

In September 2007 the Prison Service published a revised policy about visits, which introduced a mandatory requirement for all governors and directors to ensure that any system for visits booking is efficient. In future this will be monitored through the relevant performance standard on visits.

Information about the effectiveness of visits booking at each establishment is not collected centrally; although information about good practice at particular prisons has been disseminated as guidance to the whole estate.

Voting Rights: Age

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on the issue of lowering the national voting age to 16. [158884]

Mr. Wills: I have received a number of representations concerning the voting age since July this year. This has included 12 items of correspondence, mainly from young people, and one letter from a Member of Parliament.

Young Offenders: Restraint Techniques

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what physical restraint techniques are permitted for use on juvenile prisoners. [158958]

Mr. Hanson: The method of physical restraint authorised for use in young offender institutions is known as "Control and Restraint". All prison officers receive initial training and annual refresher training in the use of control and restraint. The method of restraint approved for use in secure training centres is known as "Physical Control in Care". Custody officers in secure training centres receive initial training and at

least annual refresher training in these techniques. Secure children's homes are responsible for commissioning their own physical restraint training; these methods are not currently subject to approval by the Secretary of State.

The Youth Justice Board's code of practice 'Managing Children and Young People's Behaviour in the Secure Estate' states that restrictive physical interventions must not be used as a punishment, or merely to secure compliance with staff instructions. Restrictive physical interventions must only be used as a last resort, when there is no alternative available or other options have been exhausted.

On 12 July I announced a joint review of restraint issues across the under-18 secure estate. On 8 October, Andrew Williamson and Peter Smallridge were appointed as co-chairs. They have been asked to report by 4 April 2008.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Acceptable Behaviour Contracts: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* acceptable behaviour contracts and *(b)* parenting orders have been issued in Cambridgeshire in each year since their introduction. [158542]

Mr. Coaker: Data on acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) are not collected by the Home Office as they are voluntary agreements and therefore not suitable for central data collection. However, surveys of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) indicate that over 25,000 ABCs have been made since October 2003. The Home Office recently issued updated and comprehensive guidance for practitioners on the use of ABCs.

Parenting orders are a matter for the Ministry of Justice. However I understand that they were piloted between 30 September 1998 and 31 March 2000 but data showing the breakdown by area are not available for that period. Parenting orders were commenced in England and Wales in June 2000. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) has since April 2000 collected the number of parenting orders by youth offending team ("YOT") area, as reported to it by youth offending teams including education-related orders where the YOT has been involved.

Since September 2004, the Department for Children, Schools and Families has collected data on the number of parenting orders in England related to non-attendance of children at school and exclusion from school at local authority level.

Breakdown of the number of parenting orders issued in Cambridgeshire since their introduction is given in the table.

Table A: Parenting orders related to youth offending or anti-social behaviour and non attendance reported by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough YOTs:

	Cambridgeshire YOT		*Peterborough YOT*		
	Youth offending or anti-social behaviour	*Non attendance where YOT involved*	*Youth offending or anti-social behaviour*	*Non attendance where YOT involved*	*Total*
2000-01	0	0	9	0	9
2001-02	1	0	21	0	22
2002-03	4	0	13	0	17
2003-04	1	0	11	0	12
2004-05	2	[1]—	23	[1]—	25
2005-06	13	[1]—	22	[1]—	35
2006-07	8	[1]—	23	[1]—	31

[1] See table B.

Table B: Parenting orders made following truancy prosecution between 1 September 2004 and 13 April 2007

School year	*Parenting orders for truancy*
2004-05	2
2005-06	0
2006-07	0

Alcoholic Drinks: Children

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many prosecutions there were for delivering alcohol to children in *(a)* England and *(b)* each police force area in England in each year since the Licensing Act 2003 commenced; [158077]

(2) how many prosecutions there were for consumption of alcohol by children in *(a)* England and *(b)* each police force area in England in each year since the Licensing Act 2003 commenced; [158078]

(3) how many prosecutions there were for purchase of alcohol by or on behalf of children in *(a)* England and *(b)* each police force area in England in each year since the Licensing Act 2003 commenced; [158079]

(4) how many prosecutions there were in *(a)* England and *(b)* each police force area in England for (i) sale of alcohol to children and (ii) allowing the sale of alcohol to children in each year since the Licensing Act 2003 commenced; [158080]

(5) how many prosecutions there were for obtaining alcohol for a person who was drunk in *(a)* England and *(b)* each police force area in England in each year since the Licensing Act 2003 commenced; [158081]

(6) how many prosecutions there were for under-age buying of alcohol and attempting to buy alcohol under-age in *(a)* England and *(b)* each police force area in England in (i) 1996 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available; [158082]

(7) how many prosecutions there were for being drunk and disorderly of defendants aged 10 to 17 years in *(a)* England and *(b)* each police force area in

England in (i) 1996 and (ii) the most recent year for which figures are available; [158083]

(8) how many prosecutions there were for sending a child to obtain alcohol in *(a)* England and *(b)* each police force area in England in each year since the Licensing Act 2003 commenced. [158104]

Mr. Coaker: From 2004 the offences of underage purchasing of alcohol by a person under 18, consumption of alcohol by a person under 18 in licensed premises, delivery of alcohol to children and being guilty of drunk and disorderly behaviour are all part of the penalty notice for disorder (PND) scheme which allow the police an option of issuing an on the spot penalty for the offence, rather than taking the matter to court. Figures show that for these offences, the following number of PNDs were issued in 2004 and 2005.

	Number
Underage purchasing of alcohol (offence added in 2005)	
2005	21
Consumption of alcohol by person under 18 in licensed premises	
2004	7
2005	84
Delivery of alcohol to children	
2004	20
2005	209
Drunk and disorderly (16 and 17-year-olds)	
2004	1,328
2005	2,354

Information on the number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for the offences requested are provided in the following tables.

There were no prosecutions for (i) allowing the sale of alcohol to children (ii) purchase of alcohol by or on behalf of children (iii) consumption of alcohol by children (iv) delivering alcohol to children (v) sending a child to obtain alcohol (vi) obtaining alcohol for a person who was drunk reported to my Department.

Information for 2006 will be available in November.

Number of defendants aged 10-17 proceeded against at magistrates courts for selected alcohol offences by police force area, England, 1996 and 2005[1,2]

		Any person who in any public place is guilty, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour[3]		*Person under 18 buying or attempting to buy or consuming intoxicating liquor. Person under 18 buying or consuming intoxicating liquor in licensed premises[4]*		*Person under 18 buying or attempting to buy intoxicating liquor from wholesale premises[5]*	
	Police force area	*1996*	*2005*	*1996*	*2005*	*1996*	*2005*
14101(left)	Avon and Somerset	11	23	—	—	—	—
	Bedfordshire	7	11	—	—	—	—
	Cambridgeshire	3	11	—	—	—	—
14316 (middle)	Cheshire	50	11	—	—	—	—
	City of London	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Cleveland	67	25	—	—	—	—
14354 (right)	Cumbria	55	41	5	—	—	—
	Derbyshire	8	25	—	—	—	—
	Devon and Cornwall	31	63	1	—	1	—
	Dorset	12	5	1	—	—	—
	Durham	48	75	1	—	—	—
	Essex	26	11	1	—	—	—
	Gloucestershire	3	8	—	—	—	—
	Greater Manchester	64	25	1	1	—	—
	Hampshire	49	59	1	3	—	—
	Hertfordshire	18	29	—	—	—	—
	Humberside	21	17	—	—	—	—
	Kent	34	66	—	1	—	—
	Lancashire	45	75	—	—	—	—
	Leicestershire	3	1	—	—	—	—
	Lincolnshire	13	12	—	—	—	—
	Merseyside	196	72	—	1	—	—
	Metropolitan Police	46	22	—	—	—	—
	Norfolk	4	2	—	—	—	—
	North Yorkshire	12	30	3	2	—	—

Number of defendants aged 10-17 proceeded against at magistrates courts for selected alcohol offences by police force area, England, 1996 and 2005[1,2]

Police force area	Any person who in any public place is guilty, while drunk, of disorderly behaviour[3]		Person under 18 buying or attempting to buy or consuming intoxicating liquor. Person under 18 buying or consuming intoxicating liquor in licensed premises[4]		Person under 18 buying or attempting to buy intoxicating liquor from wholesale premises[5]	
	1996	2005	1996	2005	1996	2005
Northamptonshire	1	2	—	—	—	—
Northumbria	186	514	—	3	—	—
Nottinghamshire	45	16	—	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	89	53	—	—	—	—
Staffordshire	27	23	2	—	—	—
Suffolk	10	18	—	—	—	—
Surrey	11	26	1	—	—	—
Sussex	29	37	—	—	—	—
Thames Valley	54	39	—	1	—	—
Warwickshire	19	3	—	—	—	—
West Mercia	20	63	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	28	19	—	—	—	—
West Yorkshire	103	62	2	—	—	—
Wiltshire	18	15	—	—	—	—
England	1,466	1,609	19	12	1	—

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Offence under the Criminal Justice Act 1967 sec. 91.
[4] Offence under the Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 schedule (sec .3) para. 4(2). Licensing Act 1964 sec. 169(2).
[5] Offence under the Licensing Act 1964 sec.181 A(3) as added by Licensing Act 1988 sec. 17.
Source:
RDS—Court proceedings database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice
Our ref. IOS 351-358-07

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts for sale of alcohol to person under 18, under the Licensing Act 2003 s.146, by police force area, England, 2003-05[1,2]

	Police force area	2003	2004	2005
14379	Cheshire	—	—	3
	Derbyshire	—	—	3
	Greater Manchester	—	13	9
	Humberside	—	—	1
	Lancashire	—	1	—
	Metropolitan Police	—	5	—
	Northamptonshire	—	—	4
	Thames Valley	—	—	1
	England	—	19	21

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
Source:
RDS—Court proceedings database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice
Our ref. IOS 351-358-07

Animal Experiments: Protests

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many animal rights extremists have been arrested over the past 12 months; [159241]

(2) whether there have been any arrests of animal rights extremists since May; [159242]

(3) what steps the Government are taking to address violence perpetrated by animal rights extremists. [159243]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Office does not formally collect data on arrests of animal rights extremists. However, through the Government strategy to eradicate the threat from animal rights extremists there has been a number of police operations, arrests and significant convictions of animal rights extremists which has led to a corresponding fall in violent activity by these extremists.

I refer the hon. Gentleman to my reply of 10 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 640W, when I reiterated our commitment to eradicating the threat of animal rights extremism which is backed up by a robust interdepartmental strategy centred on an improved law enforcement approach.

Assaults on Police

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many assaults on *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police community support officers there were in each of the last 10 years, broken down by police force area. [158428]

Mr. McNulty: The numbers of serious and other assaults on police officers and operational police staff are published each year in the HMIC annual report and have been given in the following table.

These data are not available by individual rank and therefore have been provided for police officers and operational staff as a combined figure.

Assualts[1] on police officers and operational police staff 1999-2000 to 2004-05[2,3]

	1999-2000			2000-01			2001-02		
Force	*Fatal*	*Serious*	*Other*	*Fatal*	*Serious*	*Other*	*Fatal*	*Serious*	*Other*
Avon and Somerset	0	3	402	0	7	325	0	64	272
Bedfordshire	0	0	97	0	16	109	0	18	76
Cambridgeshire	0	0	160	0	2	152	0	1	117
Cheshire	0	3	236	0	7	218	0	5	214
City of London	0	1	43	0	0	44	0	2	60
Cleveland	0	0	13	0	0	342	0	44	214
Cumbria	0	1	102	0	2	83	0	3	77
Derbyshire	0	5	273	0	3	229	0	0	241
Devon and Cornwall	0	6	305	0	5	219	0	3	253
Dorset	0	3	165	0	2	130	0	1	155
Durham	0	3	218	0	0	291	0	3	301
Dyfed-Powys	0	4	85	0	4	108	0	7	115
Essex	0	1	169	0	2	208	0	0	225
Gloucestershire	0	5	138	0	1	175	0	2	121
Greater Manchester[7]	1	36	904	1	31	943	0	19	855
Gwent	0	5	200	0	8	183	0	0	340
Hampshire	0	29	356	0	1	373	0	5	172
Hertfordshire	0	2	158	0	2	157	0	0	169
Humberside	0	0	265	0	2	242	0	12	176
Kent	0	12	280	0	6	276	0	2	361
Lancashire[5,6]	0	45	249	0	64	254	0	57	239
Leicestershire	0	0	218	0	0	236	0	0	235
Lincolnshire	0	1	127	0	4	114	0	3	164
Merseyside	0	23	497	0	0	119	0	0	147
Metropolitan police[8]	0	0	1,391	—	—	—	—	—	1,438
Norfolk	0	0	294	0	0	354	0	8	163
Northamptonshire[4]	0	—	189	0	—	138	0	—	136
Northumbria	0	20	493	0	29	501	0	37	501
North Wales	0	0	104	0	0	106	0	0	111
North Yorkshire	0	7	97	0	7	111	0	2	109
Nottinghamshire	0	6	416	0	1	315	0	3	171
South Wales[9]	—	—	317	0	11	394	0	0	893
South Yorkshire	0	8	190	0	7	205	0	10	199
Staffordshire	0	4	425	0	1	206	0	5	174
Suffolk	0	0	129	0	1	126	0	4	166
Surrey	0	2	138	0	8	225	0	18	157
Sussex	0	5	397	0	9	388	0	7	277
Thames Valley	0	1	141	0	0	288	0	5	315
Warwickshire	0	3	139	0	1	150	0	4	152
West Mercia	0	12	361	0	11	253	0	18	234
West Midlands[5,6]	0	30	911	0	75	1,790	1	11	1,085
West Yorkshire	0	9	656	0	6	693	0	6	1,015
Wiltshire	0	4	104	0	13	133	0	11	101

	2002-03			2003-04			2004-05		
Force	*Fatal*	*Serious*	*Other*	*Fatal*	*Serious*	*Other*	*Fatal*	*Serious*	*Other*
Avon and Somerset	0	0	366	0	3	490	0	0	296
Bedfordshire	0	8	66	0	2	115	0	0	106
Cambridgeshire	0	2	149	0	2	166	0	1	148
Cheshire	0	4	348	0	13	378	0	2	337
City of London	0	0	43	0	4	44	0	2	51
Cleveland	0	0	59	0	0	67	0	0	63
Cumbria	0	12	108	0	4	107	0	2	93
Derbyshire	0	0	290	0	1	229	0	0	228
Devon and Cornwall	0	7	319	0	12	306	0	19	314
Dorset	0	1	196	0	1	130	0	1	164

Force	2002-03 Fatal	2002-03 Serious	2002-03 Other	2003-04 Fatal	2003-04 Serious	2003-04 Other	2004-05 Fatal	2004-05 Serious	2004-05 Other
Durham	0	1	240	0	2	219	0	3	133
Dyfed-Powys	0	2	132	0	4	100	0	4	137
Essex	0	0	260	0	1	374	0	2	393
Gloucestershire	0	1	148	0	3	144	0	0	170
Greater Manchester[7]	1	25	909	—	—	—	0	16	1,006
Gwent	0	3	178	0	2	207	0	2	176
Hampshire	0	12	490	0	25	518	0	24	384
Hertfordshire	0	1	193	0	2	169	0	0	185
Humberside	0	21	240	0	14	182	0	3	127
Kent	0	25	342	0	27	347	0	5	394
Lancashire[5,6]	0	67	264	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leicestershire	2	8	202	0	11	191	0	14	291
Lincolnshire	0	6	162	0	0	166	0	29	169
Merseyside	0	0	10	0	0	182	0	0	165
Metropolitan police[8]	—	—	1,898	—	—	2,349	0	25	2,589
Norfolk	0	6	220	0	16	166	0	9	199
Northamptonshire[4]	0	—	149	0	7	102	0	0	98
Northumbria	0	0	691	0	0	39	0	25	215
North Wales	0	0	91	0	7	89	0	0	111
North Yorkshire	0	7	118	0	8	232	0	0	279
Nottinghamshire	1	0	391	0	19	90	0	10	224
South Wales[9]	0	5	1,037	0	2	702	0	5	707
South Yorkshire	0	3	161	0	5	187	0	2	161
Staffordshire	0	2	144	0	0	119	0	0	158
Suffolk	0	1	160	0	10	175	0	2	193
Surrey	0	0	223	0	9	216	0	18	238
Sussex	0	11	175	0	6	324	0	11	405
Thames Valley	0	4	312	0	5	308	0	9	260
Warwickshire	0	3	201	0	0	250	0	0	256
West Mercia	0	10	235	0	17	210	0	7	199
West Midlands[5,6]	0	2	12,62	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Yorkshire	0	2	779	0	9	847	0	7	882
Wiltshire	0	1	136	0	0	165	0	3	121

[1] Data collated on behalf of and published by HMIC. Serious assaults are those for which the charge would be under Sections 18 and 20 of the Offences Against the Person Act 1861. Other assaults include those with minor or no injury. Recording practices may vary over time and between forces.
[2] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive.
[3] HMIC did not publish a force breakdown of assaults prior to 1999-20 HMIC have advised that assaults data will no longer be published in their annual report and that the data for 2004-5 is the last series of these data to be published.
[4] Northamptonshire was not able to separate serious and other assaults from 1999-2000 to 2002-03.
[5] Lancashire and West Midlands were not able to provide breakdowns of numbers for different assaults in 2003-04, however the number of overall assaults was 462 and 1,112 respectively.
[6] Lancashire and West Midlands were not able to provide breakdowns of numbers for different assaults in 2004/05, however the number of overall assaults was 521 and 910 respectively.
[7] Greater Manchester was not able to provide data in 2003-04.
[8] Metropolitan police was unable to provide data in 2000-01 and was unable to provide breakdowns of numbers for different assaults from 2001-02 to 2003-04.
[9] South Wales was not able to provide breakdowns of numbers for different assaults in 1999-2000.

Asylum: Burma

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum applications from Burmese citizens were successful in each of the last five years. [158788]

Mr. Byrne: Information on asylum applications, initial decisions and appeals for nationals of Burma is shown in the tables.

Asylum applications[1] received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, and initial decisions[2], 2002-06, nationals of Burma

Principal applicants

	Applications			Initial Decisions			
	Total	Total decisions	Grants of asylum	Grants of ELR	Grants of HP[3]	Grants of DL[3]	Total refusals
2002	80	85	25	*	n/a	n/a	55
2003	120	140	25	*	*	5	105
2004	60	95	15	n/a	—	*	80

Asylum applications[1] received in the United Kingdom, excluding dependants, and initial decisions[2], 2002-06, nationals of Burma

Principal applicants

	Applications		Initial Decisions				
	Total	Total decisions	Grants of asylum	Grants of ELR	Grants of HP[3]	Grants of DL[3]	Total refusals
2005	60	60	25	n/a	*	—	35
2006[4]	70	65	25	n/a	5	—	30

n/a = not applicable.
[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5 (— = 0, * = 1 or 2). Figures may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.
[2] Information is of initial decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions. Decision figures do not necessarily relate to applications received in the same period.
[3] Humanitarian Protection and Discretionary Leave replaced Exceptional Leave to Remain from 1 April 2003.
[4] Provisional figures.

Asylum appeal outcomes determined at the Immigration Appellate Authority/Asylum and Immigration Tribunal[1, 2, 3, 4] excluding dependants, 2002-06, nationals of Burma

Principal appellants

	Total Determined	Allowed	Dismissed	Withdrawn[5]
2002	80	30	45	5
2003	115	55	55	5
2004	115	45	65	5
2005	70	40	30	5
2006[6]	40	20	15	5

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest 5 (— = 0, * = 1 or 2). Figures may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.
[2] The unification of the appeals system came into effect on 4 April 2005. The Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) was created by a merger of the Immigration Appellate Authority (IAA) and the Immigration Appeals Tribunal (IAT).
[3] All figures for appeals determined are cases dealt with by adjudicators/immigration judges. Determinations do not necessarily relate to appeals received within the same period.
[4] Prior to 4 April 2005 based on data supplied from the Presenting Officers Unit within the Home Office. From 4 April 2005 based on information supplied by the AIT.
[5] Figures include cases withdrawn by the Home Office, as well as those withdrawn by the appellant.
[6] Provisional figures.

Community Support Officers: Young People

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police community support officers there are under the age of 18 years. [155646]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not collected centrally in the police personnel statistics series. The age of serving police community support officers is collected in the following age brackets only.

25 and under;

26 to 40;

41 to 55 and

over 55.

The recruitment and deployment of PCSOs are operational matters for the police authority and chief constable of each force.

Crime

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crimes were committed per head of population in each police force area in each year since 1997. [158856]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Offences recorded by the police per 1,000 population by police force area, 1997 to 2006-07

Rate per 1,000 population

Police force area	1997	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	[1]2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	98	102	99	99	118	117	111	107	105
Bedfordshire	86	89	96	88	92	108	109	80	98
Cambridgeshire	85	94	95	89	95	120	112	101	92
Cheshire	62	66	66	64	72	86	94	90	96
Cleveland	116	121	117	116	129	136	138	124	124
Cumbria	73	82	77	67	76	77	81	88	77
Derbyshire	77	87	88	84	92	108	103	87	83
Devon and Cornwall	61	71	71	66	64	83	83	83	76
Dorset	65	77	76	73	79	90	90	83	79
Durham	79	83	80	74	83	87	82	80	89
Dyfed-Powys	38	51	49	48	50	51	63	65	60
Essex	60	63	67	66	69	84	89	83	77
Gloucestershire	85	86	92	89	89	99	102	94	91
Greater Manchester	119	141	146	141	147	153	146	128	131
Gwent	85	105	108	102	84	111	107	103	96
Hampshire	71	73	76	75	76	86	100	96	100
Hertfordshire	58	57	60	62	64	83	92	93	87
Humberside	137	148	138	125	133	153	163	141	127

Offences recorded by the police per 1,000 population by police force area, 1997 to 2006-07

Police force area	1997	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	[1]2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2006-07
	Rate per 1,000 population								
Kent	79	83	79	81	75	83	86	85	90
Lancashire	84	83	76	83	96	92	107	106	94
Leicestershire	88	101	102	92	94	104	103	103	98
Lincolnshire	70	75	74	71	79	96	92	88	82
London, City of	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Merseyside	89	100	105	102	108	120	124	125	114
Metropolitan police[2]	105	124	138	138	145	152	145	139	124
Norfolk	69	73	75	72	73	89	87	82	76
Northamptonshire	89	107	99	91	97	117	123	115	101
Northumbria	98	106	100	95	98	120	114	102	92
North Wales	62	67	68	73	82	98	92	80	79
North Yorkshire	68	75	72	69	78	90	95	81	71
Nottinghamshire	124	131	133	135	154	159	156	139	131
South Wales	106	109	103	89	92	120	114	102	100
South Yorkshire	100	102	101	96	104	120	112	110	124
Staffordshire	85	87	93	99	111	104	104	96	99
Suffolk	54	60	65	66	74	75	80	77	74
Surrey	50	54	59	59	57	65	69	67	69
Sussex	76	88	91	90	89	88	90	93	88
Thames Valley	76	85	91	89	93	100	100	97	99
Warwickshire	71	76	76	73	83	87	89	83	85
West Mercia	69	73	75	69	79	91	92	81	69
West Midlands	106	120	139	139	142	137	132	114	108
West Yorkshire	116	130	123	122	141	155	156	126	118
Wiltshire	56	64	64	60	63	72	70	64	72
Total England and Wales	88	98	101	98	104	113	113	105	100

n/a = not applicable

[1] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. The effect was to artificially increase the number of offences recorded and therefore the rate. Figures before and after that date are not directly comparable.

[2] Including City of London

Crime Prevention: Schools

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will assess the effectiveness of the experiment initiated by East Renfrewshire Council in appointing of police officers to three secondary schools; whether there is evidence that the level of vandalism and other youth offences has dropped as a result; and she will consider the merits of introduction of further campus police officers in England and Wales in the light of her findings. [158627]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 17 October 2007]:* The scheme in East Renfrewshire appears similar to a scheme we operate in England and Wales called Safer Schools Partnerships (SSPs). Originally launched in areas targeted by the Street Crime Initiative in 2002, there are now over 400 SSPs in one form or another across the country. Guidance (from Home Office, DFES, YJB and ACPO) was issued in March 2006 which illustrates the different ways schools and police forces should consider SSPs as part of their response to a range of local challenges, including reducing youth offending and antisocial behaviour.

Under the SSP scheme, a dedicated police officer is allocated to a school or a group of schools, often based on-site to work with pupils, school staff and the wider community to identify and work with young people who are at risk of poor behaviour, truancy, victimisation, offending or social exclusion. Having a dedicated officer develop a close relationship with a school has the dual benefit of helping to tackle pupil behaviour or attendance issues as well as building trust and positive relations between the police and young people. It encourages greater confidence in the police by making them more visible and accessible and provides young people with a valuable role model.

SSPs have been shown to be a successful mechanism for ensuring structured joint working between schools and police. Evaluation by the YJB has shown they are proving effective in improving behaviour and attendance, with truancy falling significantly and pupils and staff feeling much safer. Furthermore, SSPs have been shown to help develop strong and positive relationships between the police and young people, and to help young people develop a sense of being part of the local community.

My right hon. Friend the Minister for Security, Counter-Terrorism, Crime and Policing my noble Friend Lord Andrew Adonis, Under-Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families have encouraged the adoption of the approach with a joint letter to chief constables in England and Wales in November 2006 requesting that they discuss Safer School Partnerships with their local education partners to encourage them to engage in this type of early intervention. Ministers wrote again to chief constables in England on 26 June 2007 asking them to consider a further push to develop Safer School Partnership support for schools in their communities which had been identified as ones which would most benefit.

Crimes Against Property

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of recorded incidents of criminal damage in England and Wales in the most recent year for which figures are available. [158131]

Mr. McNulty: Police recorded crime figures showed a 0 per cent. change in total criminal damage between 2005-06 and 2006-07. Of the 1,185,111 offences recorded, 41 per cent. (484,977) were to a vehicle, 24 per cent. to a dwelling (289,839) and 14 per cent. to a building other than a dwelling (161,307). There was a 6 per cent. fall in the number of arson offences recorded by the police between 2005-06 and 2006-07 to 43,103 offences.

Total criminal damage accounted for 30 per cent. of all property crime, and 22 per cent. of all recorded crime in England and Wales for 2006-07.

A complete set of recorded crime statistics for the offences within the criminal damage group are published in table 2.04 of the Statistical Bulletin 11/07 "Crime in England and Wales 2006/07" on the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at the following address:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1107chap2.xls

Custodial Treatment: Driving Under Influence

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions for drink-driving resulted in custodial sentences in each year since 1997, broken down by police authority. [159228]

Mr. Coaker: The latest available information is given in the following tables.

Findings of guilt and immediate custodial sentences at all courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1] by police force area, 1997 to 2004

Number of offences

	1997		1998		1999		2000	
Police force area	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody[2]*	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody[2]*	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody[2]*	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody[2]*
Avon and Somerset	2,812	163	2,566	157	2,728	165	2,462	152
Bedfordshire	1,146	119	1,060	96	869	87	797	89
Cambridgeshire	1,092	56	1,060	62	941	43	793	41
Cheshire	1,969	97	1,903	119	1,827	133	1,652	122
Cleveland	926	61	870	63	811	57	777	56
Cumbria	931	49	856	51	871	37	806	50
Derbyshire	1,612	147	1,547	202	1,463	181	1,417	126
Devon and Cornwall	2,342	91	2,265	127	2,277	112	2,199	104
Dorset	1,214	93	1,186	88	1,120	96	1,115	84
Durham	1,044	66	1,035	53	1,137	81	1,124	76
Essex	2,736	228	2,438	233	2,528	261	2,462	237
Gloucestershire	1,067	48	985	36	889	51	804	37
Greater Manchester	4,806	440	4,715	453	4,850	464	4,801	428
Hampshire	3,774	243	3,597	231	3,725	213	3,472	244
Hertfordshire	1,670	90	1,672	91	1,679	90	1,552	98
Humberside	1,274	76	1,358	87	1,323	97	1,371	128
Kent	2,321	97	2,627	155	2,633	133	2,592	134
Lancashire	3,389	224	2,945	178	3,010	184	2,584	163
Leicestershire	1,648	183	1,485	140	1,624	188	1,531	152
Lincolnshire	1,088	47	979	36	941	44	816	48
London, City of	436	8	301	9	236	5	162	4
Merseyside	2,719	304	2,451	326	2,137	296	2,128	286
Met Police	16,165	1,270	13,889	1,050	12,414	838	11,801	891
Norfolk	1,116	49	1,118	43	1,010	64	935	45
Northamptonshire	1,107	109	1,062	73	1,058	91	782	90
Northumbria	2,625	184	2,457	194	2,463	229	2,621	215
North Yorkshire	1,365	77	1,205	77	1,124	60	1,073	67
Nottinghamshire	2,031	255	1,804	247	1,802	262	1,722	210
South Yorkshire	2,296	204	2,002	178	1,927	149	2,122	170
Staffordshire[3]	2,036	132	1,955	140	1,711	143	n/a	n/a
Suffolk	1,050	53	1,042	60	1,089	71	902	74
Surrey	1,380	64	1,328	58	1,417	47	1,539	61
Sussex	2,373	110	2,113	113	2,224	120	2,112	136
Thames Valley	4,070	215	3,896	195	3,725	216	3,496	212
Warwickshire	837	44	784	53	856	38	786	42
West Mercia	1,947	87	1,794	97	1,747	114	1,631	101
West Midlands	6,351	598	5,582	532	4,775	532	4,559	451
West Yorkshire	3,953	394	3,669	329	3,597	358	3,375	287

Findings of guilt and immediate custodial sentences at all courts for offences of driving etc. after consuming alcohol or taking drugs[1] by police force area, 1997 to 2004

Number of offences

	1997		1998		1999		2000	
Police force area	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody[2]*	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody[2]*	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody[2]*	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody[2]*
Wiltshire	1,043	27	1,108	39	1,009	45	930	28
England	93,761	6,802	86,709	6,471	83,567	6,395	79,671	6,076
Dyfed Powys	1,029	44	995	38	944	48	858	45
Gwent	1,166	61	1,203	84	1,079	78	1,211	99
North Wales	1,354	96	1,306	95	1,248	94	1,332	92
South Wales	2,892	257	2,903	239	2,526	282	2,757	255
Wales	6,441	458	6,407	456	5,797	502	6,158	491
England and Wales	100,202	7,260	93,116	6,927	89,364	6,897	85,829	6,567

Number of offences

	2001		2002		2003		2004	
Police force area	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody[2]*	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody[2]*	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody[2]*	*Findings of guilt*	*Immediate custody[2]*
Avon and Somerset	2,197	129	2,401	124	2,666	167	2,692	145
Bedfordshire	914	79	955	82	1,072	72	1,028	65
Cambridgeshire	813	51	852	41	933	56	1,083	52
Cheshire	1,529	96	1,993	103	1,905	110	2,128	106
Cleveland	887	77	921	71	981	61	1,071	60
Cumbria	761	51	768	37	843	37	907	50
Derbyshire	1,411	140	1,465	164	1,617	168	1,874	143
Devon and Cornwall	2,369	128	2,441	95	2,667	121	2,560	120
Dorset	1,150	91	1,199	83	1,264	73	1,239	52
Durham	1,097	86	1,136	68	1,170	77	1,277	80
Essex	2,456	264	2,522	267	2,622	311	2,853	349
Gloucestershire	865	39	926	44	890	37	913	38
Greater Manchester	4,715	454	4,720	474	4,743	437	4,811	379
Hampshire	3,464	235	3,846	243	3,663	234	3,743	199
Hertfordshire	1,666	94	1,894	90	1,904	78	1,881	94
Humberside	1,259	126	1,395	113	1,445	150	1,623	112
Kent	2,575	165	2,745	152	2,811	179	3,010	155
Lancashire	2,304	148	2,599	159	2,652	146	2,706	125
Leicestershire	1,546	140	1,659	140	1,725	143	1,754	145
Lincolnshire	877	60	847	56	1,111	42	1,209	46
London, City of	162	10	221	12	230	4	169	5
Merseyside	2,195	217	2,293	216	2,687	215	2,849	261
Met Police	11,260	928	12,905	927	12,621	922	13,227	832
Norfolk	1,143	75	1,220	55	1,274	59	1,240	64
Northamptonshire	399	65	236	35	799	65	922	73
Northumbria	2,529	217	2,588	188	2,747	187	2,675	183
North Yorkshire	1,066	55	1,119	63	1,194	51	1,131	40
Nottinghamshire	1,598	187	1,420	129	1,644	149	1,669	111
South Yorkshire	2,020	159	1,945	165	2,089	125	2,224	140
Staffordshire[3]	1,513	136	1,704	143	1,733	141	1,733	124
Suffolk	920	43	1,105	79	1,213	66	1,332	89
Surrey	1,592	65	1,614	68	1,464	44	1,425	51
Sussex	2,358	128	2,306	149	2,430	120	2,368	104
Thames Valley	3,275	210	4,317	219	3,884	159	3,539	190
Warwickshire	880	33	841	40	918	33	845	23
West Mercia	1,740	91	1,719	93	1,797	100	1,689	103
West Midlands	4,914	471	5,050	438	5,233	420	5,584	423
West Yorkshire	3,220	331	3,564	268	3,720	260	3,897	276
Wiltshire	1,045	53	1,005	54	1,031	62	1,024	39
England	78,684	6,127	84,456	5,947	87,392	5,881	89,904	5,646
Dyfed Powys	867	36	927	47	995	46	986	47
Gwent	1,152	76	1,074	74	1,149	94	1,188	69
North Wales	1,227	87	1,270	71	1,326	76	1,349	75

Number of offences

Police force area	2001 Findings of guilt	2001 Immediate custody[2]	2002 Findings of guilt	2002 Immediate custody[2]	2003 Findings of guilt	2003 Immediate custody[2]	2004 Findings of guilt	2004 Immediate custody[2]
South Wales	2,812	295	2,761	236	2,840	211	2,811	222
Wales	6,058	494	6,032	428	6,310	427	6,334	413
England and Wales	84,742	6,621	90,488	6,375	93,702	6,308	96,238	6,059

n/a = Not available

[1] Data provided covers summary offences of driving etc after consuming alcohol or taking drugs (which cannot reliably be distinguished separately).

[2] Immediate custody includes sentences of secure training order, detention and training order, young offender institution and unsuspended sentence of imprisonment.

[3] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates' courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when these data are used.

Source:

RDS Court Proceedings Database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drivers convicted of driving when under the influence of alcohol or drugs in the East of England in each year since 1997 had previous convictions for the same offence, broken down by police authority. [159229]

Mr. Coaker: Information on the Court Proceedings Database maintained by the Ministry of Justice does not enable the identification of repeat drink or drug driving offenders.

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what accounts directions were issued by her Department in financial years *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [156631]

Mr. Byrne: Under the Government Resource and Accounts Act 2000, HM Treasury issues accounts directions to departments, pension schemes and agencies and under the Government Trading Fund Act 1973 to trading funds.

For the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 the Home Office has issued accounts directions for the form and content of resource and other accounts to the following sponsored bodies:

2005-06

The Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), the Central Police Training and Development Authority (Centrex) and the Police Information Technology Organisation (PITO).

2006-07

Centrex, PITO, the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) and the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). For 2006-07 IPCC relied on accounts directions issued for 2005-06.

Directions for the Security Industry Authority were issued for 2003-04 and were still extant for 2005-06 and 2006-07. Those for the National Crime Squad and the National Criminal Intelligence Service were issued for 2002-03 and were still extant for 2005-06.

Departments: Road Traffic Offences

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fixed penalty tickets were incurred by vehicles within the purview of her Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the total cost was. [157895]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not collected centrally.

I refer the hon. Gentleman to his question answered on 18 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1185W, by my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick).

Detection Rates

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the detection rates were for reported crime in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available, broken down by categories of crime. [158723]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* The information is shown in the following table.

Detection rates by offence group in England and Wales

Percentage detected

	Total crime	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Burglary	Offences against vehicles[1]	Other theft offences	Fraud and forgery	Criminal damage	Drug offences	Other offences
1997	28	79	77	27	23	16	33	48	19	98	78
1998-99	29	71	68	23	19	13	32	36	17	97	78

Detection rates by offence group in England and Wales

Percentage detected

	Total crime	Violence against the person	Sexual offences	Robbery	Burglary	Offences against vehicles[1]	Other theft offences	Fraud and forgery	Criminal damage	Drug offences	Other offences
1999-2000[2]	22	65	59	18	13	8	27	30	15	97	74
2000-01[3]	24	59	45	17	12	8	25	28	14	95	79
2001-02[4]	23	57	45	17	12	8	24	27	13	94	77
2002-03[5, 6]	23	54	39	19	12	9	21	26	13	93	76
2003-04	23	50	36	19	13	9	20	26	13	93	73
2004-05[7]	26	53	34	20	13	10	20	26	14	95	70
2005-06	27	54	35	18	14	10	22	29	15	95	71
2006-07	27	51	32	19	14	11	23	28	15	95	70

[1] Offences of aggravated vehicle taking and theft of and from a vehicle. Includes interfering with a motor vehicle from 1998-99 onwards.
[2] Revised detections guidance was implemented on 1 April 1999. The new instructions provided more precise and rigorous criteria for recording a detection.
[3] Excludes British Transport police, Durham, Hampshire, Leicestershire, South Yorkshire and West Yorkshire.
[4] Excludes British Transport police, Durham and Leicestershire.
[5] The National Crime Recording Standard was implemented in April 2002. It was expected to have an inflationary effect on recorded crime, and the general assumption was that it would depress the detection rates in 2002-03 and 2003-04 since additional recorded crimes would generally be less serious and possibly harder to detect.
[6] Data for the British Transport police have been included from 2002-03 onwards.
[7] The classification and coverage of offences included in the sexual offences group changed from 1 May 2004 following the introduction of the Sexual Offences Act 2003. This added a number of new offences and the definitions of other offences were broadened.

Driving Offences: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents there were of a vehicle failing to stop at the scene of a crime in the Greater London area in each of the last five years. [159004]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not collected centrally.

Driving Under Influence: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were cautioned or charged for the offence of driving while unfit under the influence of drugs in the Greater London area in each of the last five years. [159001]

Mr. Coaker: This information is not collected centrally.

Driving: Insurance

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were prosecuted for driving cars while uninsured in each police authority area in the East of England in each year since 1997. [159233]

Mr. Coaker: Available information is given in the table.

Information collected centrally on motoring offences does not identify the type of vehicle involved, unless the offence is specific to that type of vehicle

Proceedings at magistrates courts for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks[1] within the east region of England by police force area, 1997-2004

Police force area	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003[2]	2004
East region	27,095	27,875	26,278	27,553	29,550	32,351	35,177	33,051
Bedfordshire	4,724	4,449	3,479	3,594	4,651	4,731	5,041	4,534
Cambridgeshire	3,440	3,425	3,058	2,929	2,508	2,875	3,301	3,120
Essex	7,161	7,025	7,336	7,898	7,708	7,811	7,489	7,132
Hertfordshire	4,580	5,799	4,748	5,258	5,816	6,612	7,216	7,463
Norfolk	3,932	3,434	3,468	3,951	4,744	5,563	6,322	5,084
Suffolk	3,258	3,743	4,189	3,923	4,123	4,759	5,808	5,718

[1] An offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s. 143 (2).
[2] As from 1 June 2003, 'driving a motor vehicle while uninsured against third party risks' became a fixed penalty offence.
Notes:
1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences may be less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Human Trafficking: Children

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what advice is given to police forces on actions to be taken when trafficked minors present themselves at police stations to seek assistance. [159109]

Mr. Coaker: Under Section 11 of the Children Act 2004, the police have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of any child in England and Wales, including trafficked children. Any child who presents at a police station should be referred to the relevant local authority children's services for an assessment to be made of their needs to ensure that they are safeguarded and their welfare secured.

The victim care role of the police in child trafficking cases is contained in the Government's guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children, "Working Together To Safeguard Children, 2006". The police and children's services should be informed whenever it is suspected that a child is a victim of trafficking. The multi-agency Trafficking Toolkit also provides guidance on dealing with trafficking. In addition, multi-agency supplementary guidance to the Working Together document, "Safeguarding Children Who May Have Been Trafficked" is soon to be published jointly by the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Home Office. This was the subject of public consultation during the Summer.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her estimate is of the number of minors who were illegally trafficked into the UK in each of the last four years. [159110]

Mr. Coaker: All forms of human trafficking are illegal and are defined by the Sexual Offences Act 2003 and the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004. Trafficking involves the movement of individuals for the purpose of exploitation.

To date, the best available information in relation to the numbers of trafficked children is contained in the Home Office and BIA-commissioned Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (CEOP) "Scoping Project on Child Trafficking in the UK", published in June 2007. This report found 330 cases of suspected or confirmed child trafficking, from a dataset gathered by key agencies during the period March 2005 to December 2006.

Recognising the limitations of this 'snapshot' report, the Government intend to examine further the continuing intelligence and data being gathered by the various agencies in relation to child trafficking. To this end, CEOP, on behalf of the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), will conduct a strategic threat assessment into the scale and nature of child trafficking into and within the UK.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many minors trafficked into the UK were *(a)* taken into social services or foster care and *(b)* subsequently deported from the UK in each of the last four years. [159111]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not currently recorded, but in line with our UK Action Plan on Tackling Human Trafficking, we are developing arrangements for data on human trafficking to be collected and recorded centrally.

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested, *(b)* charged and *(c)* prosecuted for illegally trafficking minors into the UK in each of the last four years. [159112]

Mr. Coaker: The most recent data provided to the Home Office show that, for human trafficking overall, there have been a total of 66 convictions to date, all for trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, with a further 64 cases pending. These figures include any cases in which the victim was a child, although specific data on child victims are not yet collected or recorded centrally.

However, discussions are ongoing between the Home Office, UKHTC and CPS to further develop a system of data collection and central recording of all cases of human trafficking.

Human Trafficking: Prostitution

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been successfully prosecuted for trafficking of women to work as prostitutes in each of the last five years. [158534]

Mr. Coaker: Following the commencement of dedicated trafficking offences in 2004, there have been 68 convictions for trafficking for sexual exploitation. The number of men prosecuted for trafficking for each year is as follows:

	Number
2004	3
2005	18
2006	16
2007	11

Immigration Controls: Bulgaria

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she expects the Government to make a decision on whether to continue the restrictions placed on migrant workers entering the UK from Romania and Bulgaria; [158555]

(2) what factors are being considered as part of the Government's review of whether to retain current restrictions on Bulgarian and Romanian migrant workers entering the UK; [158557]

(3) what representations the Government have received from Romania and Bulgaria as part of its review of the restrictions placed on migrant workers entering the UK; [158558]

(4) which groups the Government have consulted as part of their decision making process on whether to retain restrictions on migrant workers from Romania and Bulgaria entering the UK; [158559]

(5) what meetings she has had with her counterparts in *(a)* Romania and *(b)* Bulgaria as part of the Government's ongoing review of their restrictions on migrant workers entering the UK. [158560]

Mr. Byrne: The Government committed to an announcement on the current restrictions in place on migrant workers from Romania and Bulgaria within 12 months of them coming into effect. This decision will be informed by a stock-take of the impact of A2 and A8 migration to the UK, looking at the needs of our labour market, the impact of the A8 accession and the positions adopted by other EU countries I invited contribution from members of the Migration Impacts Forum, the Border and Immigration Agency Regional Strategic Coordination Groups and the Illegal Working Stakeholder Group. The Romanian and Bulgarian governments were also invited to contribute, their evidence and views will be taken into account in developing the evidence base. Further, other organisations and the general public were invited to contribute through the BIA website homepage.

The Secretary of State has had no meetings with her counterparts in Romania and Bulgaria as part of the stock-take. However there have been ongoing meetings at official level to discuss the restrictions on migrant workers with Bulgarian and Romanian officials.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Romanian and Bulgarian migrant workers are employed in Britain; and what the change in numbers has been since accession of those countries to the UK. [158556]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 22 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about the number of Romanian and Bulgarian migrant workers who are currently employed in the United Kingdom, and what the changes in numbers have been since accession. (158556)

The attached table gives the rate and number of employed people of working age who were born in either Romania or Bulgaria, for the twelve month periods ending March 2005, 2006 and 2007.

When interpreting the figures in the table, it is important to bear in mind that the Annual Population Survey (APS) is not designed to cover everyone who is present in the UK. The survey may undercount the numbers of people who were born overseas. The reasons are set out in the table footnote.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the Annual Population Survey (APS) are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Levels and rates of people of working age[1] in employment who were born in Bulgaria or Romania—12 months ending March, 2005, 2006, 2007—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

	Romania		Bulgaria	
	Levels (thousand)	Rate[2] (percentage)	Levels (thousand)	Rate[2] (percentage)
2005	6	62	10	88
2006	11	65	10	87
2007	10	81	10	86

[1] Men aged 16 to 64 and women aged 16 to 59

[2] People in employment as a percentage of all persons in the working age group (16 to 59/64).

Note:

It should be noted that the APS:

excludes those who have not been resident in the UK

excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent

excludes people in most other types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)

is grossed to population estimates that only include migrants staying for 12 months or more

microdata are only grossed to population estimates consistent with those published in spring which are significantly lower that the latest population estimates.

Police: Emergency Calls

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average response time to 999 calls made to the police in *(a)* Essex and *(b)* Southend was in each year since 1997. [156571]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not held centrally. This is a matter for the chief constable of Essex police.

Police: Festivals and Special Occasions

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what guidance her Department issues on the policing and marshalling of local events; and if she will make a statement; [159149]

(2) what representations she has received about the policing and marshalling of local events; [159150]

(3) what guidance is issued by her Department to chief police officers on the policing, marshalling and directing of traffic at local events; and what plans she has to change this guidance; [159153]

(4) if she will make it her policy to permit the training of stewards and marshals by professional and amateur organisers for the policing and direction of traffic at local events; and if she will make a statement. [159152]

Mr. Coaker: In August 2006, the Home Office published the Good Practice Safety Guide for small and sporting events taking place on the highway, roads and public spaces. The Guide sets out good practice for professional and amateur organisers of smaller scale local events, offering advice on the responsibilities of an organiser, carrying out risk assessments and the policing, marshalling and directing of traffic. The Guide includes guidance on the use of stewards and marshals covering training and briefing. The Guide, when used with other guidance produced by the Health and Safety Executive, helps to ensure that such events are as safe as possible for the public and participants and will be kept under review.

Police: Finance

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what total grant was allocated to each police authority in each year since 1997; [158852]

(2) how much funding was allocated per head of population for each police authority in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [158853]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is set out in the following table.

The Government do not distribute grant to police authorities purely on the basis of population. The police funding formula uses a range of data relating to demographic and social characteristics to reflect the relative needs of each authority. Grant allocations also take into account the relative tax base of each authority. Grant allocations are stabilised by damping to limit year-on-year variations.

Police authority total government grant allocations

Police authority	*1997-98*		*1998-99*		*1999-2000*		*2000-01*	
	Government grant[1,2]	*Resident population*	*Government Grant[1,2]*	*Resident population*	*Government Grant[1,2]*	*Resident population*	*Government Grant[1,2]*	*Resident population*
	£m	*M*	*£m*	*M*	*£m*	*M*	*£m*	*M*
Avon and Somerset	134.80	1.46	139.75	1.47	142.56	1.48	146.96	1.49
Bedfordshire	50.14	0.55	51.90	0.55	51.97	0.56	54.24	0.56
Cambridgeshire	57.23	0.70	60.66	0.70	62.87	0.70	66.89	0.71
Cheshire	85.08	0.98	88.15	0.98	91.65	0.98	94.16	0.98
Cleveland	67.59	0.55	72.66	0.55	73.65	0.55	76.30	0.55
Cumbria	50.94	0.49	51.11	0.49	51.84	0.49	53.66	0.49
Derbyshire	81. 06	0.95	83.35	0.96	87.29	0.96	94.24	0.96
Devon and Cornwall	132.97	1.54	141.09	1.54	146.70	1.55	152.88	1.57
Dorset	54.09	0.68	54.88	0.68	56.58	0.69	58.82	0.69
Durham	65.06	0.60	69.68	0.60	72.46	0.59	74.77	0.59
Dyfed-Powys	24.67	0.48	25.21	0.48	25.92	0.48	26.77	0.49
Essex	129.70	1.58	131.53	1.59	132.75	1.60	142.51	1.61
Gloucestershire	50.59	0.56	51.78	0.56	52.12	0.56	52.88	0.56
Greater Manchester	315.27	2.52	328.12	2.52	337.39	2.52	351.70	2.52
Gwent	31.82	0.55	33.27	0.55	34.85	0.55	35.83	0.55
Hampshire	150.38	1.75	158.77	1.76	162.66	1.77	169.64	1.77
Hertfordshire	76.02	1.01	77.23	1.02	82.42	1.02	92.89	1.03
Humberside	93.43	0.88	97.83	0.88	99.71	0.87	103.06	0.87
Kent	141.72	1.55	151.44	1.55	154.31	1.56	162.74	1.57
Lancashire	146.86	1.41	153.65	1.41	155.94	1.41	163.35	1.41
Leicestershire	83.88	0.92	85.27	0.92	87.84	0.92	90.60	0.92
Lincolnshire	52.23	0.62	51.13	0.63	53.30	0.63	56.43	0.64
Merseyside	207.64	1.39	213.25	1.39	215.31	1.38	220.65	1.37
Metropolitan[3]	1,610.26	7.01	1.633.26	7.06	1,658.78	7.15	—	7.23
Norfolk	65.65	0.77	68.10	0.78	69.95	0.79	74.20	0.79
North Wales	34.96	0.65	36.27	0.66	37.95	0.66	39.16	0.66
North Yorkshire	59.23	0.73	62.62	0.73	63.89	0.74	66.55	0.74
Northamptonshire	50.77	0.61	53.28	0.62	55.14	0.62	57.14	0.63
Northumbria	173.67	1.42	185.28	1.41	192.25	1.40	197.06	1.40
Nottinghamshire	104.73	1.02	108.06	1.02	110.75	1.02	113.91	1.02
South Wales	76.37	1.21	79.54	1.21	81.98	1.21	84.27	1.21
South Yorkshire	141.47	1.28	147.75	1.27	152.90	1.27	159.24	1.27
Staffordshire	96.15	1.05	95.09	1.05	96.27	1.05	100.13	1.05
Suffolk	52.57	0.66	55.14	0.66	57.29	0.67	59.09	0.67
Surrey	75.60	1.04	67.61	1.04	67.61	1.06	83.09	1.06
Sussex	127.99	1.46	134.66	1.47	137.03	1.49	142.03	1.49
Thames Valley	171.15	2.06	181.27	2.07	184.64	2.08	193.02	2.09
Warwickshire	42.18	0.50	42.54	0.50	43.16	0.50	44.96	0.50
West Mercia	87.74	1.13	90.86	1.14	92.92	1.14	98.36	1.15
West Midlands	317.34	2.59	335.10	2.56	342.16	2.58	357.58	2.57
West Yorkshire	238.20	2.07	249.54	2.07	255.01	2.07	268.61	2.07
Wiltshire	52.08	0.59	52.87	0.60	53.84	0.60	57.20	0.61
England and Wales Total	5,861.30	51.56	6,050.55	51.71	8,185.59	51.93	4,737.60	52.13

Police authority	2001-02		2002-03		2003-04		2004-05	
	Government Grant[1,2] £m	Resident population M	Government Grant[1,2] £m	Resident population M	Government Grant[1,2] £m	Resident population M	Government Grant[1,2] £m	Resident population M
Avon and Somerset	152.58	1.49	158.87	1.50	173.99	1.51	175.19	1.52
Bedfordshire	59.89	0.57	61.51	0.57	66.83	0.57	69.22	0.58
Cambridgeshire	71.27	0.71	76.80	0.72	77.96	0.73	79.66	0.74
Cheshire	100.79	0.98	103.02	0.99	112.59	0.95	119.77	0.99
Cleveland	80.96	0.55	84.06	0.55	90.97	0.55	94.79	0.55
Cumbria	55.61	0.49	60.11	0.49	63.08	0.49	65.27	0.49
Derbyshire	101.56	0.97	106.46	0.97	111.23	0.98	114.88	0.98
Devon and Cornwall	163.44	1.58	167.49	1.59	174.26	1.60	180.29	1.62
Dorset	62.45	0.69	65.46	0.70	71.17	0.70	75.46	0.70
Durham	77.69	0.59	81.78	0.59	86.93	0.59	90.27	0.60
Dyfed-Powys	28.00	0.49	28.17	0.49	30.12	0.50	32.23	0.50
Essex	152.99	1.62	157.94	1.62	169.34	1.63	173.67	1.64
Gloucestershire	55.55	0.56	58.78	0.57	61.48	0.57	63.66	0.57
Greater Manchester	374.55	2.52	384.68	2.52	417.66	2.53	433.15	2.54
Gwent	37.23	0.55	37.64	0.55	40.90	0.56	43.29	0.56
Hampshire	178.39	1.78	185.16	1.79	197.87	1.80	208.08	1.80
Hertfordshire	100.61	1.04	102.27	1.04	108.85	1.04	114.58	1.04
Humberside	106.20	0.88	110.26	0.88	117.34	0.88	124.65	0.89
Kent	178.10	1.58	179.96	1.59	188.38	1.60	198.30	1.61
Lancashire	173.85	1.42	174.78	1.42	188.91	1.43	196.55	1.43
Leicestershire	94.60	0.93	101.21	0.93	107.59	0.94	111.45	0.95
Lincolnshire	60.34	0.65	60.97	0.66	64.98	0.67	68.22	0.67
Merseyside	235.53	1.37	241.29	1.37	267.36	1.36	269.90	1.37
Metropolitan[3]	—	7.32	—	7.36	—	7.38	—	7.42
Norfolk	81.58	0.80	86.60	0.80	90.79	0.81	94.37	0.82
North Wales	41.36	0.66	41.11	0.67	44.71	0.67	47.08	0.67
North Yorkshire	72.69	0.75	71.68	0.76	78.89	0.76	80.61	0.76
Northamptonshire	59.46	0.63	62.21	0.64	69.79	0.64	70.71	0.65
Northumbria	209.79	1.39	211.02	1.39	226.21	1.39	233.28	1.40
Nottinghamshire	123.97	1.02	129.84	1.02	136.54	1.03	142.04	1.03
South Wales	88.02	1.20	89.25	1.21	93.45	1.21	103.17	1.22
South Yorkshire	167.09	1.27	168.77	1.27	184.86	1.27	191.87	1.28
Staffordshire	105.23	1.05	106.36	1.05	112.87	1.05	117.62	1.05
Suffolk	62.24	0.67	62.02	0.67	69.57	0.88	71.81	0.68
Surrey	83.35	1.06	87.48	1.06	93.59	1.08	96.78	1.07
Sussex	149.10	1.50	153.68	1.50	168.05	1.51	180.99	1.51
Thames Valley	210.13	2.10	219.41	2.10	233.34	2.11	237.32	2.12
Warwickshire	46.90	0.51	48.67	0.51	51.91	0.52	53.90	0.53
West Mercia	108.63	1.16	109.21	1.17	114.12	1.17	117.77	1.18
West Midlands	379.35	2.57	388.14	2.58	415.20	2.58	433.31	2.58
West Yorkshire	287.07	2.08	288.26	2.09	310.30	2.10	329.12	2.11
Wiltshire	60.89	0.61	60.78	0.62	64.68	0.62	65.85	0.63
England and Wales Total	5,038.79	52.35	5,173.15	52.56	5,548.65	52.79	5,770.08	53.04

Police authority	2005-06		2006-07[4]		2007-08[4]	
	Government grant[1,2] £m	Resident population M	Government grant[1,2] £m	Resident population M	Government grant[1,2] £m	Resident population M
Avon and Somerset	183.81	1.53	185.92	1.54	184.21	1.55
Bedfordshire	73.11	0.58	74.15	0.59	76.21	0.59
Cambridgeshire	85.26	0.75	82.33	0.75	85.58	0.76
Cheshire	124.28	0.99	130.88	1.00	136.13	1.00
Cleveland	99.54	0.55	101.32	0.55	105.29	0.55

Police authority	2005-06		2006-07[4]		2007-08[4]	
	Government grant[1,2] £m	Resident population M	Government grant[1,2] £m	Resident population M	Government grant[1,2] £m	Resident population M
Cumbria	68.71	0.50	72.43	0.49	72.29	0.49
Derbyshire	119.38	0.98	117.32	0.99	119.81	0.99
Devon and Cornwall	189.16	1.63	190.95	1.64	199.38	1.65
Dorset	73.19	0.70	81.17	0.71	82.66	0.71
Durham	95.28	0.60	94.36	0.59	97.68	0.59
Dyfed-Powys	33.61	0.51	32.69	0.51	34.17	0.51
Essex	181.81	1.65	180.43	1.65	187.91	1.66
Gloucestershire	68.00	0.58	67.93	0.58	71.35	0.58
Greater Manchester	462.73	2.55	479.73	2.54	484.16	2.55
Gwent	44.44	0.56	44.27	0.56	45.70	0.56
Hampshire	239.16	1.81	222.35	1.82	221.75	1.83
Hertfordshire	117.84	1.05	121.12	1.06	127.33	1.06
Humberside	132.49	0.89	135.00	0.89	134.90	0.89
Kent	203.93	1.62	193.45	1.83	219.23	1.65
Lancashire	205.41	1.44	207.98	1.44	215.90	1.44
Leicestershire	118.17	0.95	124.81	0.95	126.03	0.96
Lincolnshire	71.17	0.68	66.54	0.69	72.47	0.70
Merseyside	279.85	1.37	276.08	1.36	287.30	1.36
Metropolitan[3]	—	7.51	—	7.51	—	7.56
Norfolk	99.27	0.82	100.08	0.83	102.25	0.84
North Wales	49.47	0.68	48.07	0.68	50.28	0.68
North Yorkshire	83.73	0.77	86.24	0.77	79.39	0.77
Northamptonshire	72.37	0.65	75.49	0.66	78.53	0.66
Northumbria	250.55	1.41	249.17	1.39	260.01	1.39
Nottinghamshire	148.94	1.04	143.48	1.04	145.55	1.04
South Wales	107.45	1.22	91.93	1.23	94.82	1.23
South Yorkshire	202.82	1.29	205.49	1.28	211.15	1.28
Staffordshire	122.43	1.05	122.05	1.05	126.77	1.05
Suffolk	74.76	0.69	73.73	0.69	75.57	0.70
Surrey	100.80	1.08	104.76	1.08	110.12	1.08
Sussex	180.95	1.52	156.10	1.53	189.14	1.54
Thames Valley	249.35	2.14	260.52	2.14	261.98	2.15
Warwickshire	56.16	0.53	54.57	0.53	56.91	0.53
West Mercia	122.50	1.19	126.05	1.16	131.49	1.1
West Midlands	466.12	2.59	471.41	2.59	487.88	2.59
West Yorkshire	347.12	2.12	345.62	2.12	348.95	2.13
Wiltshire	70.26	0.63	68.77	0.64	73.03	0.64
England and Wales Total	6,075.37	53.38	6,066.75	53.45	6,271.23	53.68

[1] Revenue funding includes all grants inside Aggregate External Finance (AEF) (i.e. revenue grants paid for councils' core services).
[2] Welsh Government Grant includes Home Office Police Grant, floor funding and additional support provided to ensure Welsh police authorities receive at least a minimum.
[3] The data for Metropolitan Police Authority from 2000-02 onwards are not available as they are collected as consolidated data from GLA.
[4] 2006-07 Government grant figures are provisional outturn figures. 2007-08 figures are budget figures.
Source: DCLG—English police authorities/WAG—Welsh police authorities. Population figures sourced by DCLG from ONS (2006-07 and 2007-08 figures are projected).

Police: Firearms

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 11 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 718W, on police: firearms, how many operations there were in which firearms were authorised in *(a)* the City of Leeds and *(b)* Leeds West constituency in each of the last 10 years. [159841]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not available centrally. Information on the number of police operations in which firearms were authorised is only available by force area.

Proceeds of Crime: East of England

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the value was of assets *(a)* seized and *(b)* frozen under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 in each police force area in the East of England in each year since 2002. [159231]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is not available. Information is available from 2003-04 on the value of cash forfeiture orders and confiscation orders obtained by police forces. This information is set out in the table.

Value of Cash Forfeiture Orders and Confiscation Orders obtained by Police Force Area, 2003-04 to 2006-07

£

	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04
Bedfordshire Police	401,264	272,110	154,828	3,392,094
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	974,930	211,225	2,695,434	278,679
Essex Police	1,069,979	652,297	192,804	0.00
Hertfordshire Constabulary	1,209,485	568,276	440,353	929,368
Norfolk Constabulary	269,184	3,574,093	911,868	89,325
Suffolk Constabulary	468,491	666,872	430,715	137,649

Prostitution

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by what means the Government plans to implement its commitment in Section 5.6 of the 2006 document A Coordinated Prostitution Strategy, January 2006, to amend the definition of a brothel so that two (or three) individuals may work together. [159178]

Mr. Coaker: This proposal remains a part of the prostitution strategy, although we are committed to further consultation before any legislative changes are made.

As part of the strategy, we are currently looking at how we can make further progress in terms of tackling demand for prostitution and trafficking. It would be wrong to pre-empt this work by consulting on the change to the definition of a brothel. We will return to this commitment once we have considered our options to tackle demand.

Runaway Children: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many children under the age of 18 years ran away from their homes in Lancashire in each of the last 10 years; and how many of these subsequently returned home; [159254]

(2) how many children under the age of 18 years were reported missing in Lancashire in each of the last 10 years; and how many of these cases were subsequently resolved. [159255]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for the force concerned.

Sexual Offences: Victim Support Schemes

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sexual assault referral centres there are in each police force area in England and Wales *(a)* in absolute terms and *(b)* per thousand population. [157753]

Mr. Coaker: There are currently 18 Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) in operation across England and Wales. A further 18 Centres are currently in development and will bring the total to 36 by the end of 2008-09.

The following table shows the location of each SARC in relation to each police force area. We do not routinely collect information on SARCs per thousand population.

Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) by police force areas in England and Wales

Police force area	SARC location
Avon and Somerset	Bristol (under development)
Bedfordshire	—
Cambridgeshire	—
Cheshire	Crewe or Warrington (under development)
Cleveland	Middlesbrough (under development)
Cumbria	—
Devon and Cornwall	Plymouth (under development) Exeter (under development)
Derbyshire	Codner
Dorset	Bournemouth (under development)
Durham	Durham
Dyfed-Powys	Carmarthen
Essex	—
Gloucestershire	Gloucester (under development)
Greater Manchester	Manchester
Gwent	Risca (near Newport)
Hampshire	Portsmouth
Hertfordshire	—
Humberside	Hull (under development)
Kent	Dartford
Lancashire	Preston
Leicestershire	Leicester
Lincolnshire	—
London Metropolitan	Camberwell
	Paddington
	Whitechapel
London City	—
Merseyside	Liverpool (under development)
Norfolk	Norwich (under development)
Northamptonshire	—
North Wales	Colwyn Bay (under development)
North Yorkshire	—
Northumbria	Newcastle Sunderland
Nottinghamshire	Nottingham
South Wales	Merthyr Tydfil Cardiff (under development)
South Yorkshire	Rotherham (under development)
Staffordshire	Stafford (under development)
Suffolk	—
Surrey	—
Sussex	Crawley (under development)
Thames Valley	Aylesbury (under development)
Warwickshire	—
West Mercia	—
West Midlands	Walsall

Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCs) by police force areas in England and Wales

Police force area	*SARC location*
West Yorkshire	Kirklees (under development)
	Calderdale (under development)
Wiltshire	Swindon

Shoplifting: East of England

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted of shoplifting in the East of England in each year since 1997, broken down by parliamentary constituency; and how many of these convictions led to *(a)* a caution, *(b)* probation and *(c)* a custodial sentence. [159230]

Mr. Coaker: The number of people cautioned, convicted and sentenced to community and custodial disposals for theft from shops in the East of England Region, broken down by police force area, in each year from1997 to 2005 is shown in the Table. Data for 2006 will be available in November 2007. The Ministry of Justice is unable to provide a breakdown by parliamentary constituency as the data is not held to that level of detail.

A caution can be given when there is sufficient evidence for a conviction and it is not considered to be in the public interest to institute criminal proceedings.

Probation Orders were renamed Community Rehabilitation Orders in April 2001 and replaced by the Community Order (for adults) in April 2005. For this reason, persons sentenced to all Community Orders have also been shown in the table.

Persons[1] cautioned, found guilty and sentenced to community and custodial sentences for theft from shops in the East of England Region, 1997-2005

Year and police force area	*Persons cautioned*	*Persons found guilty*	*[2]Persons sentenced to community rehabilitation order*	*Persons sentenced to all community sentences*	*Persons sentenced to immediate custody*
1997					
Bedfordshire	689	610	78	145	126
Cambridgeshire	450	502	47	96	35
Essex	1,295	1,637	302	458	316
Hertfordshire	638	576	89	130	44
Norfolk	1,187	713	71	178	65
Suffolk	460	586	45	109	54
Total	4,719	4,624	632	1,116	640
1998					
Bedfordshire	564	717	98	181	165
Cambridgeshire	411	594	61	118	56
Essex	1,350	1,714	276	519	360
Hertfordshire	586	611	103	162	73
Norfolk	874	928	85	250	80
Suffolk	442	681	79	162	98
Total	4,227	5,245	702	1,392	832
1999					
Bedfordshire	681	798	125	219	176
Cambridgeshire	433	704	68	120	82
Essex	1,016	1,622	214	395	360
Hertfordshire	568	779	121	201	86
Norfolk	573	1,027	92	265	122
Suffolk	379	666	59	136	101
Total	3,650	5,596	679	1,336	927
2000					
Bedfordshire	492	805	154	215	213
Cambridgeshire	532	872	116	238	101
Essex	946	1,578	229	449	372
Hertfordshire	704	889	129	221	134
Norfolk	638	991	107	302	133
Suffolk	572	749	92	208	106
Total	3,884	5,884	827	1,633	1,059
2001					
Bedfordshire	647	867	146	273	236
Cambridgeshire	430	895	121	264	122
Essex	1,014	1,744	230	565	466
Hertfordshire	777	917	154	308	176
Norfolk	495	1,088	146	392	152
Suffolk	599	771	94	180	102
Total	3,962	6,282	891	1,982	1,254

Persons[1] cautioned, found guilty and sentenced to community and custodial sentences for theft from shops in the East of England Region, 1997-2005

Year and police force area	*Persons cautioned*	*Persons found guilty*	*[2]Persons sentenced to community rehabilitation order*	*Persons sentenced to all community sentences*	*Persons sentenced to immediate custody*
2002					
Bedfordshire	513	916	152	287	268
Cambridgeshire	428	857	171	330	97
Essex	810	1,623	236	531	486
Hertfordshire	604	964	160	311	199
Norfolk	382	1,045	151	418	147
Suffolk	396	743	88	203	112
Total	3,133	6,148	958	2,080	1,309
2003					
Bedfordshire	641	1,098	155	331	312
Cambridgeshire	420	791	124	281	113
Essex	767	1,686	229	530	542
Hertfordshire	662	1,051	165	364	191
Norfolk	400	944	90	338	152
Suffolk	428	839	98	245	132
Total	3,318	6,409	861	2,089	1,442
2004					
Bedfordshire	753	1,073	129	375	285
Cambridgeshire	550	717	124	273	86
Essex	805	1,646	151	526	518
Hertfordshire	760	1,130	134	357	237
Norfolk	580	925	60	297	157
Suffolk	466	726	52	241	104
Total	3,914	6,217	650	2,069	1,387
2005					
Bedfordshire	855	879	91	231	229
Cambridgeshire	843	802	39	236	99
Essex	1,277	1,841	68	541	535
Hertfordshire	749	1,126	71	370	239
Norfolk	648	923	35	308	106
Suffolk	487	745	55	238	110
Total	4,859	6,316	359	1,924	1,318

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Probation orders prior to April 2001.

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Sources:
RDS-OCJR (cautions and convictions) and RDS-NOMS (sentencing), Ministry of Justice. Refs: 361-07 and Sent 202-07

Stop and Search: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions police used stop and search powers contained in section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 in each London constituency in each of the last five years. [158785]

Mr. McNulty: Information held by the Ministry of Justice on the number of stops and searches, under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000, is available at police force area level only.

The latest annual HOSB "Arrests for Recorded Crime (Notifiable Offences) and the Operation of Certain Police Powers under PACE, England and Wales, 2004/05" can be found on the Home Office website: http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hosb2105.pdf

The Metropolitan police has, however, published on 25 September 2007 a borough breakdown of S44 stop and searches, covering the period April to August 2007. These figures are available on the Metropolitan police website on the following link:

http://www.met.police.uk/foi/pdfs/how_are_we_doing/corporate/mps_stops_and_searches_under_the_terrorism_act_april-august_2007.pdf

PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Prime Minister what guidance his Office follows on the maximum time taken to respond to hon. Members' correspondence; and what performance against that target was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [158587]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Ed Miliband) today.

Departments: Secondment

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister how many staff are seconded to his Department from outside Government; from which outside body each has been seconded; and what the length is of each secondment. [157972]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary at the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons (Helen Goodman) on 18 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1182W.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to his answer of 15th October 2007, *Official Report*, column 820W, on Iraq: peacekeeping operations, for what reason he has not identified any of the factors he took into account in deciding when to inform the Secretary of State for Defence of his decision to announce troop withdrawals from Iraq. [160079]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 820W.

Members: Honours

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Prime Minister how many *(a)* hon. and right hon. Members and *(b)* Government Ministers have received honours while in post in the last 10 years. [159461]

The Prime Minister: This is a matter of public record. The Honours Lists are published in The London Gazette on the occasion of The Queen's birthday in June and at new year.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 23 October 2007

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Products: Biofuels

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of volumes of tallow disposals following the planned introduction of banding in the renewables obligation in 2009; [159036]

(2) what information his Department holds on the volume of tallow disposed of in landfill over the last three years; [159037]

(3) what estimate he has made of the likely costs to industry of converting tallow into biodiesel; and if he will make a statement; [159038]

(4) what studies his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the environmental and sustainability impact of converting tallow into biodiesel. [159039]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 18 October 2007]:* No estimates have been made by DEFRA of any changes to tallow disposals following the planned introduction of banding in the renewables obligation in 2009.

Data on the total volume of tallow disposed of in landfill are not held by DEFRA or the Environment Agency. However, the various regulatory restrictions, and the high value of tallow for further uses, for example in the oleochemicals industry, means that its disposal to landfill is likely to be rare.

No estimates have been made by DEFRA of the likely costs to industry of converting tallow into biodiesel.

DEFRA has not commissioned any evaluation of the sustainability impact of converting tallow into biodiesel.

The Government announced on 21 June 2007 that they aim to reward biofuels under the renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO) in accordance with the carbon savings they offer from 2010, provided that this is compatible with World Trade Organisation rules and EU technical standards requirements. This must also be consistent with the policy framework being developed by the European Commission as part of the review of the biofuels directive, and subject to consultation on the potential environmental and economic impacts of such a scheme.

The Government also announced that from 2011, they aim to reward biofuels under the RTFO only if the feedstocks from which they are produced meet appropriate sustainability standards, again subject to the provisos set out above. The RTFO draft Order provides for an 'Administrator' of the scheme, which will be a new non-departmental public body. It will have the power to require information from suppliers about the biofuel supplied and feedstocks used. The Government will ask the Administrator to report regularly on the impact on other sectors, and will consider carefully, in the light of these reports, whether any corrective action is necessary.

Animal Products: Waste Disposal

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what volume of tallow has been disposed of in landfill over the last three years; and what arrangements for the disposal of tallow will be made following the planned introduction of the renewable transport fuel obligation in 2008. [158710]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* Data on the total volume of tallow disposed of in landfill are not held by DEFRA or the Environment Agency.

Under the Animal By-Products Regulation (EC) 1774/2002 (ABPR), tallow can only be landfilled if the animal by-products from which it has been derived have undergone the relevant level of processing (rendering).

Regulatory restrictions and the high value of tallow for further uses mean that its disposal in landfill is likely to be rare.

The disposal of tallow must comply with the relevant regulatory requirements, including the ABPR, waste management legislation and, where appropriate, the waste incineration directive. No other arrangements for the recovery or disposal of tallow are planned by my Department to coincide with the renewable transport fuel obligation's requirements.

Carbon Emissions: Departmental Co-ordination

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to co-ordinate efforts across Government to reduce the Government's carbon footprint. [159758]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA provides the secretariat for the cross-departmental sustainable procurement and operations board which has been set up to drive delivery of the sustainable procurement and operations targets on the Government estate. These targets include action on carbon reduction and energy efficiency.

DEFRA funds the Carbon Trust to provide advice on carbon management and financial support, through Salix Finance, including advice to Departments. Both organisations are expected to benefit under the Environmental Transformation Fund.

DEFRA leads an 'Act on CO_2' communications campaign across Government Departments to encourage individuals to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions, both at work and at home.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list the research, including opinion research and polling, which his Department has *(a)* undertaken in-house and *(b)* commissioned from external sources in relation to charging for the collection of household rubbish. [158097]

Joan Ruddock: *(a)* No research has been undertaken in-house.

(b) DEFRA commissioned the following research:

The 2007 Survey of Public Attitudes and Behaviours toward the Environment, undertaken by the British Market Research Bureau, which included a section on "attitudes to recycling" and sought views on whether individuals would "favour a system that rewarded them if they recycled everything they could and penalised them if they didn't". Fifty-two per cent. of residents were in favour of this statement, with 24 per cent. disagreeing or strongly disagreeing.

In addition, Eunomia Research and Consulting Ltd produced a report for DEFRA on the project 'Modelling the Impact of Household Charging for Waste in England.'

Plastics: Recycling

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to encourage the recycling of plastic; and if he will make a statement. [159145]

Joan Ruddock: Recycling is strongly promoted by a range of Government policies. The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is working to maximise the amount and quality of recyclate used in UK manufacturing operations.

The demand for recycled plastic is very strong, from both UK manufacturers and overseas markets. The UK currently recycles or recovers approximately 19 per cent. of all plastic consumed, and this is set to increase to over 25 per cent. by 2010. WRAP has a number of projects over the next two years which aim to switch manufacturing processes from virgin to recycled materials, including a target to support the recycling of an additional 16 kilo tonnes of plastic bottles—an increase of 30 per cent. from current levels. The use of recycled content in packaging is expanding rapidly, partly due to WRAP's work to stimulate this market.

The Waste Strategy for England 2007, which we published in May, focuses action on key waste materials for greater scope for improving environmental and economic outcomes, one of which is plastic. The strategy recognises that recycling plastics shows significant potential for carbon and energy savings through displacing virgin materials. Actions set out in the strategy include developing proposals (subject to further analysis) for higher packaging recycling targets beyond the 2008 EC packaging directive targets, and supporting WRAP in its work to increase recycling of plastics and the recycled content of certain plastic containers.

We have set demanding targets, both nationally and locally, for household waste recycling and composting and the Waste Strategy 2007 sets even higher national targets, to reach at least 40 per cent. by 2010, 45 per cent. by 2015 and 50 per cent. by 2020. These targets are not material-specific, but we expect the range of materials collected by local authorities, including plastics, to increase further as targets become more demanding and as collection and treatment capacity increases.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether there is surplus capacity to recycle plastic waste in the UK. [159187]

Joan Ruddock: The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has carried out some work on the plastic processing capacity/supply relationship. The indication is that the UK, along with most of Europe, does have some excess capacity to process plastic waste. The exceptions are plastic bottles, and to some extent waste electrical and electronic equipment plastics, where growth in collection has supported a substantial growth in reprocessing capacity.

However, this is a complex area, and much of the existing capacity is too old, too small or targeting the wrong end products. Many plants are therefore investing in new capacity or updating and consolidating existing plants, some with support from WRAP. WRAP has a number of projects designed to maximise the amount and quality of recyclate, including plastic, used in UK manufacturing operations.

Turtles: Conservation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Government's policy is on the protection of chelonians, with particular reference to turtles. [159245]

Joan Ruddock: Marine turtles are protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, the Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 1994 and the Offshore Marine Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2007 which came into force in August of this year. These pieces of legislation establish a strict system of protection for marine turtles in the UK, including prohibitions in respect of the deliberate capture, injuring, killing or disturbance, as well as the sale or exchange, of these species.

The UK also plays a prominent role in various international agreements and conventions such as the convention on international trade in endangered species (CITES) and the convention on migratory species (CMS), both of which include measures to protect endangered chelonians (including marine turtles, tortoises and terrapins). The illegal trade in CITES species is one of the top UK wildlife crime priorities for 2007-08, with a particular focus on five species, including tortoises, that are threatened by illegal trade.

Wildlife: Trade

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is *(a)* taking and *(b)* planning to take to prevent British holidaymakers from participating in the illegal wildlife trade. [159250]

Joan Ruddock: Since 2000 DEFRA, in partnership with WWF-UK, has been running a 'Souvenir Alert' campaign to help tackle the problem of holidaymakers unknowingly bringing back illegal wildlife souvenirs. The campaign advises travellers to be careful when buying souvenirs made from endangered wildlife, so that they do not contribute to the devastating effect of illegal and unsustainable trade. It warns that bringing home souvenirs containing products derived from animals or plants protected by the convention on international trade in endangered species (CITES) may require a permit or may even be prohibited.

DEFRA takes its responsibilities under CITES seriously and continues to look for opportunities to raise awareness of CITES controls to ensure effective implementation.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Drugs

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many drugs tests on *(a)* Army, *(b)* Navy and *(c)* RAF personnel produced positive results in each quarter since January 2006, broken down by the (i) class of drugs and (ii) regiment concerned. [158359]

Derek Twigg: The following tables show the results of drug tests in the armed forces since January 2006, broken down by quarter, class of drug and service. A breakdown by regiment could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Royal Navy

		Positive results		*Class A*		*Class B*		*Class C*	
Period	*Number of Tests carried out*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2006									
1 January to 31 March	3,619	13	0.35	10	—	0	0	3	—
1 April to 30 June	2,939	8	0.27	2	—	0	0	6	—
1 July to 30 September	3,343	19	0.56	17	—	0	0	2	—
1 October to 31 December	3,037	17	0.55	17	—	0	0	0	—
2007									
1 January to 31 March	2,822	7	0.24	3	—	0	0	4	—
1 April to 30 June	2,994	14	0.46	8	—	0	0	6	—
1 July to 30 September	2,887	10	0.35	10	—	0	0	0	—
Total	21,957	88	0.40	67	76	0	0	21	24

Army

		Positive results		*Class A*		*Class B*		*Class C*	
Period	*Number of Tests carried out*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2006									
1 January to 31 March	32,449	261	0.80	156	—	12	—	117	—
1 April to 30 June	26,105	190	0.73	119	—	11	—	82	—
1 July to 30 September	19,477	152	0.78	220	—	8	—	63	—
1 October to 31 December	26,468	234	0.88	205	—	9	—	56	—
2007									
1 January to 31 March	25,230	228	0.90	166	—	8	—	80	—
1 April to 30 June	17,537	189	1.08	148	—	5	—	54	—
1 July to 30 September	16,734	[1]143	[1]0.85	108	—	7	—	42	—
Total	164,000	1,397	0.85	1,122	67	60	3.6	494	30

[1] Awaiting results of 1,250 tests conducted during September 2007.

Royal Air Force

Period	Number of Tests carried out	Positive results		Class A		Class B		Class C	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
2006									
1 January to 31 March	3,105	7	0.23	6	—	0	0	1	—
1 April to 30 June	3,062	6	0.20	5	—	0	0	1	—
1 July to 30 September	3,545	2	0.06	1	—	0	0	1	—
1 October to 31 December	3,172	3	0.09	0	—	0	0	3	—
2007									
1 January to 31 March	2,785	3	0.11	2	—	0	0	1	—
1 April to 30 June	3,606	5	0.14	3	—	0	0	2	—
1 July to 30 September	2,279	1	0.04	1	—	0	0	0	—
Total	21,554	27	0.13	18	67	0	0	9	33

Notes:
1. A single test sample may contain more than one class of drug; the sum of positive test results for class A, B and C drugs may therefore be greater than the overall number of positive results.
2. The percentages in the totals for class A, B and C drugs are the percentages of each class total against the sum of the class totals.

Armed Forces: Pay

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel in the *(a)* RAF, *(b)* Army, *(c)* Navy, *(d)* Marines and *(e)* Reserves have been (i) overpaid and (ii) underpaid under the joint personnel administration system since March 2006. [158363]

Derek Twigg: The joint personnel administration (JPA) system was rolled out to the Royal Air Force (RAF) in March 2006, the Royal Navy (RN) in October 2006 and the Army in April 2007.

Information for the Royal Marines is contained in the RN information. The information on Reserves is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

The RN and RAF figures for 2006 are as follows:

2006	RN Over	RN Under	RAF Over	RAF Under
March	0	0	0	0
April	0	0	4,064	1,804
May	0	0	230	475
June	0	0	257	288
July	0	0	139	120
August	0	0	2,979	7,058
September	0	0	4	0
October	0	0	0	0
November	9,618	2,289	1,200	1,678
December	0	0	0	0

From January 2007, JPA system errors are no longer recorded separately by service and figures are therefore not available for the Army. The combined figures for 2007 are as follows:

2007	Overpayments	Underpayments
January	161	1,383
February	70	0
March	229	54
April	13,908	252
May	3,430	1,181
June	0	90
July	2,978	416
August	0	51,917
September	0	12

These figures are the total over and underpayments. It should be noted that the majority of the 51,917 underpayments recorded in August relate to a single error which took a charity contribution from each RN/RM account of £3. The error has been corrected and the money will be re-credited to pay accounts in October.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate *(a)* the cost of making service in the armed forces prior to 1975 of less than 22 years duration pensionable and *(b)* the consequential costs elsewhere in the public sector of making service in the armed forces prior to 1975 of less than 22 years duration pensionable. [158652]

Derek Twigg: It is not practical to make an accurate estimate of the cost of making pension awards to those service personnel who served less than 22 years reckonable service prior to 1975.

The consequential cost of providing pensions for pre-1975 service on a retrospective basis across the public sector would be prohibitive—exceeding billions of pounds.

There remains no realistic prospect that this or any Government could afford to address these public-sector pension legacy issues. Further details were set out in the reply given by my right hon. Friend the Member for East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow, then Minister for the Armed Forces, in the Adjournment Debate on 31 January 2007, *Official Report*, columns 338-40, which clearly set out the legislative and policy background to this matter.

Armed Forces: Personnel Management

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many serving and former RAF personnel payments have been missed since 1 January 2007 under Joint Personnel Administration; how many complaints have been received from members of the armed forces about Joint Personnel Administration; and how many complaints are still outstanding. [158766]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* The total number of serving and former Royal Air Force personnel payments that have been missed since 1 January could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, across the three services between 1 January 2007 and 30 September 2007 there have been 55,305 underpayments (which may be considered missed payments) and 683 pension payments which were not enabled within the target of five working days of discharge.

The majority of the 55,305 underpayments relate to a single error that occurred in August which took a charity contribution from each Royal Navy and Royal Marine account of £3. The error has been corrected and the money will be re-credited to pay accounts in the October pay run.

Between 1 January 2007 and 30 September 2007, 1,053 complaints had been received from armed forces personnel via the centralised JPA complaints process about incorrect payments and other apparent problems with pay or the handling of queries. Of these, 47 remain outstanding.

Army: Drugs

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British Army personnel tested positive after compulsory drug testing using urine samples for *(a)* cocaine only, *(b)* ecstasy only, *(c)* cannabis only and *(d)* any drug in (i) 2003 and (ii) 2006, broken down by the day of the week on which the sample was obtained. [157335]

Derek Twigg: The following table illustrates positive drug tests for each drug and combination of drugs for the years 2003 and 2006. Details of the day of the week on which each positive sample was obtained could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Drug type	*2003*	*2006*
Heroin	4	1
Total Heroin	4	1
Cocaine	112	340
Cocaine/Ecstasy	7	34
Cocaine/Ecstasy/ Amphetamine	1	3
Cocaine/Ecstasy/Cannabis	4	6
Cocaine/Ecstasy/ Amphetamine/Cannabis	2	0
Cocaine/ Amphetamine	1	6
Cocaine/ Amphetamine /Cannabis	0	1
Cocaine/Cannabis	9	33
Total Cocaine	136	423
Ecstasy	85	73
Ecstasy/Amphetamine	7	9
Ecstasy/Amphetamine/ Cannabis	4	3
Ecstasy/Cannabis	7	10
Total Ecstasy	103	95
Cannabis	244	221
Cannabis/Benzodiazepine	0	0
Total Cannabis	244	221
Amphetamine	18	15
Amphetamine/Cannabis	6	4
Amphetamine/Methyl Amphetamine/Cannabis	1	0
Total Amphetamine	25	19
Benzodiazepine	6	10
Total Benzodiazepine	6	10
Total positive results	518	769

Army: Recruitment

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the rate of recruitment to the Army was in each of the last five years, broken down by sector. [157165]

Derek Twigg: The following tables show the rates of gains to trained strength of the UK Regular Army by Arm/Service during the financial years 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 and for the period 1 April 2006 to 28 February 2007.

Table 1: Regular Army Officer Rates of Gains to Trained Strength (GTS)

Arm/Service	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*Percentage 2006-07[1]*
Household Cavalry/Royal Armoured Corps	5.9	6.6	5.8	6.0	6.6
Royal Regiment of Artillery	6.4	5.5	6.4	6.0	5.5
Corps of Royal Engineers	5.6	4.6	5.6	5.6	6.5
Royal Corps of Signals	4.6	4.5	6.0	4.9	4.3

Table 1: Regular Army Officer Rates of Gains to Trained Strength (GTS)

Arm/Service	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*Percentage 2006-07*[1]
The Infantry	6.6	7.1	5.9	5.7	6.0
Army Air Corps	5.5	6.2	6.9	6.2	5.4
Royal Army Chaplain's Department	7.8	4.2	8.8	5.9	7.3
The Royal Logistics Corps	4.4	4.8	5.0	5.3	4.9
Royal Army Medical Corps	13.0	13.2	14.2	12.4	8.4
Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	4.7	3.8	5.4	4.3	4.2
Adjutant General's Corps (Provost Branch)	8.1	8.0	8.3	7.5	6.9
Adjutant General's Corps (Staff and Personnel Support Branch)	3.4	4.3	6.0	5.7	5.1
Adjutant General's Corps (Educational and Training Services Branch)	4.8	6.0	5.8	7.1	6.0
Adjutant General's Corps (Army Legal Services Branch)	12.3	3.2	7.5	20.0	11.6
Royal Army Veterinary Corps	10.4	10.4	10.5	17.9	11.5
Royal Army Dental Corps	17.3	9.6	6.2	3.6	13.1
Intelligence Corps	4.7	2.7	5.5	5.2	7.5
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps	8.2	2.5	7.1	7.4	5.5
Corps of Army Music	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	8.9
Total	5.4	5.2	5.8	5.6	5.6

Table 2: Regular Army Soldier Rates of Gains to Trained Strength (GTS)

Arm/Service	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*Percentage 2006-07*[1]
Household Cavalry/Royal Armoured Corps	14.2	11.8	9.6	8.6	10.3
Royal Regiment of Artillery	12.7	11.4	8.9	9.1	8.8
Corps of Royal Engineers	14.3	13.5	15.3	12.6	11.5
Royal Corps of Signals	14.5	10.6	10.1	6.7	6.2
The Infantry	12.8	14.8	11.0	9.7	11.3
Army Air Corps	9.4	9.6	14.9	12.5	9.0
The Royal Logistics Corps	11.9	13.9	11.1	10.6	7.6
Royal Army Medical Corps	11.9	10.9	11.3	11.4	8.5
Corps of Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers	11.1	9.5	10.0	10.1	7.0
Adjutant General's Corps (Provost Branch)	9.2	8.4	10.7	6.2	5.0
Adjutant General's Corps (Staff and Personnel Support Branch)	7.2	9.5	4.4	2.3	1.5
Royal Army Veterinary Corps	20.6	11.9	11.5	11.5	9.8
Royal Army Dental Corps	13.3	5.8	3.2	7.8	10.3
Intelligence Corps	8.4	5.1	7.8	9.6	7.9
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps	12.3	22.3	9.2	10.9	9.7
Corps of Army Music	5.8	5.4	3.7	4.3	2.3
Total	12.1	12.2	10.4	9.3	8.6

[1] Due to ongoing data validation following the introduction of the new Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) System, there is no arm/service information currently available since 1 March 2007. Therefore it is possible to provide data only for 2006-07 from 1 April 2006 to 28 February 2007.

Notes:

1. Rates are for the Regular Army only and exclude Gurkhas, full-time reserve service, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists.
2. Annual rates have been calculated by taking the GTS for each arm/service in the period as a percentage of the average strength for all trained officers and soldiers in that arm/service over the same period.
3. The Officer GTS include all Direct Entry Commissions (DE) and Professionally Qualified Officers (PQOs) who have been recorded as a Gain to Trained Strength during the Financial Years 2002-03, 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Greenwich Hospital: Middleton

Mr. Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Greenwich Hospital, Middleton Estate at Belford, Northumberland, is being marketed in separate lots; what information is being provided to farm and cottage tenants about the progress of the sale; and if he will make a statement. [159113]

Derek Twigg: Greenwich Hospital's Middleton Estate was offered for sale in autumn 2006 either as a whole or as six separate lots. In May 2007 the hospital accepted a bid for the whole estate from a consortium which included the three existing tenant farmers. The lead buyer has recently withdrawn but the hospital is currently progressing the sale of the farms to the tenant farmers.

Through its managing agents, the hospital periodically informs all tenants of relevant progress and will continue to do so. All potential buyers are fully aware of the terms of all other existing estate tenancies (around 40) and will be bound to purchase subject to the terms and conditions of these tenancies.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many serious hand injuries have occurred to soldiers in *(a)* Iran and *(b)* Afghanistan over the last 12 months. [157439]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 18 October 2007]:* This answer presumes that the question was meant to refer to Iraq, rather than Iran.

Taking a serious hand injury to mean an amputation, open fracture, degloving (removal from the bone of the surrounding muscle and skin structure), or major laceration of artery or vein, our records show that since 1 October 2006 there have been 15 cases in Iraq and seven cases in Afghanistan.

Merchant Marine: War Pensions

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many members of the Merchant Marine have been awarded a war pension due to injuries or illness suffered in the Pacific area during nuclear tests; [157827]

(2) what the rationale is for treating members of the Merchant Marine acting alongside UK forces and service personnel differently in relation to qualification for war pensions. [157828]

Derek Twigg: The rules of the Mercantile Marine scheme are currently contained in the War Pensions (Mercantile Marine) Scheme 1964. The scheme dates from the second world war and was intended to reflect the additional dangers of war over and above those normally found on board ship. The scheme therefore provides for awards to be made to members of the mercantile marine only in respect of "war injuries" (injuries caused by enemy action or in combating such action) and "war risk injuries" (injuries resulting from conditions on ship which would not be normal in peace time, such as measures to avoid or prevent enemy action). The scheme does not cover injuries or illnesses arising in peace time.

Owing to the historical nature of the scheme, information on the total number of war pensions is not held. However I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 17 October, *Official Report*, column 1125W, for the number of those currently in receipt of a pension.

Military Bases: Portsmouth

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of land at HM Naval Base Portsmouth is allocated to *(a)* museums and heritage purposes, *(b)* Vosper Thornycroft Shipbuilders and *(c)* operational Royal Navy requirements; and if he will make a statement. [159021]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The total area of land at HM Naval Base Portsmouth is some 383 acres. The proportion of land allocated at the naval base for museum and heritage purposes is 3.6 per cent. (13.87 acres); for VT Group Shipbuilders it is 8.5 per cent. (32.65 acres); and for operational purposes it is 87 per cent. (335.5 acres). In addition, 0.3 per cent. (0.98 acres) of land is allocated to BAE Systems. The figure for land required to support operational requirements includes two ship basins, the Royal Marines School of Music, and sports facilities required to prepare Royal Navy personnel for operations.

Military Fighting Vehicles

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the option for a further 400 Panther command and liaison vehicles will be taken up. [157078]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We have no current plans to procure further Panther vehicles.

Navy: Drug Seizures

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1250W, on Navy: drug seizures, what the circumstances and outcome of each drug seizure made by the Royal Navy in 2006-07 was; and to which law enforcement agency the contraband was turned over in each case. [156247]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table sets out the details of each drug seizure in which the Royal Navy was involved, for the financial year 2006-07. All the drug seizures detailed in the table involved cocaine. It is difficult to put an accurate value on the amount of illegal drugs seized or destroyed in these operations. The price of illegal drugs varies greatly depending on supply and demand, as well as the purity of the drugs themselves when they reach the UK market. Therefore quoted MOD figures for the "street value" of successful seizures are always estimates. It should be noted that it is likely that not all the cocaine seized would have reached the UK market.

Date	*Location*	*Estimated Tonnage*	*Estimated Street Value[1] (£ million)*	*Ships involved*	*Lead Agency for Contraband*
10 September 2006	300 miles north east of Barbados	5	245	RFA Wave Ruler	US Law Enforcement Detachment
5 October 2006	Off the west coast of North Africa	1.8	88	HMS Argyle and RFA Gold Rover	Spanish Law Enforcement Detachment
25 October 2006	Off the coast of Puerto Rico	3	147	RFA Wave Ruler	US Law Enforcement Detachment
6 November 2006	300 miles west of the Cape Verde Islands	1.3	64	HMS Argyle	Spanish Law Enforcement Detachment

Date	Location	Estimated Tonnage	Estimated Street Value[1] (£ million)	Ships involved	Lead Agency for Contraband
23 November 2006	600 miles north east of Barbados	2.9	142	RFA Wave Ruler	US Law Enforcement Detachment

[1] If drugs had reached the UK.

In my answer to the hon. Member for Ribble Valley (Mr. Evans) on 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 670W, about drug seizures, it has been identified that the data are incorrect for 2005-06 and 2006-07. The correct tonnage should read 17 and 14 respectively.

Royal Marines: Devonport

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consideration he has given to moving the headquarters of 1 Assault Group Royal Marines from Poole to Devonport; and if he will make a statement. [159045]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 18 October 2007]:* As part of the overall FLEET Transformation programme, operational control of 1 Assault Group Royal Marines was transferred on 18 October from the Devonport Flotilla to Flag Officer Sea Training based in Devonport. It is planned for the headquarters element of the assault group (approximately 15 personnel) to relocate from Poole to Devonport in the first half of next year.

Royal Regiment of Scotland

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many non-UK Commonwealth citizens are serving with the Royal Regiment of Scotland. [158702]

Derek Twigg: The information is as follows:

Non-UK Commonwealth regular officers and soldiers in the Royal Regiment of Scotland at 1 March 2007

	Officers	Soldiers	Total
Royal Regiment of Scotland	15	40	55

Notes:
1. Figures are shown as at 1 March 2007, as reliable Army strength statistics to this level of detail are not yet available for 1 April 2007 onwards due to on-going validation of Army data following the introduction of the new personnel administration system.
2. The numbers have been rounded to the nearest five.

The figures above are trained regular officers and soldiers only.

Figures include non-British Commonwealth citizens posted to the Royal Regiment of Scotland and exclude Royal Regiment of Scotland non-British Commonwealth citizens posted away from the unit.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing: Employment

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of social tenants were in *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time employment in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest year for which figures are available. [157449]

Mr. Iain Wright: On the basis of figures derived from the Survey of English Housing, it is estimated that, in 1997-98, 23 per cent. of social tenants who were the main householder were in full-time employment and 7 per cent. were in part-time employment.

The latest estimates, for 2005-06, are that 22 per cent. of social tenants were in full-time employment and 9 per cent. in part-time employment.

Empty Property: Public Sector

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many public-sector homes in *(a)* England and *(b)* each Government office region in England were empty in April 2007; [157561]

(2) how many public-sector domestic dwellings were vacant in *(a)* England and *(b)* each Government office region in England in April. [157628]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of local authority and registered social landlord vacant dwellings in each region at 1 April 2006, the latest date for which figures are available, is below.

Vacancies by region, 1 April 2006

	Local authority[1]	Registered social landlords[2]
NE	4,358	3,236
NW	6,295	7,947
YH	6,142	2,882
EM	4,294	1,244
WM	3,923	4,550
E	3,105	1,868
L	10,107	4,405
SE	2,780	2,471
SW	1,887	1,567
England	42,891	30,170

Source:
[1] Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix as reported by local authorities.
[2] Regulatory Statistical Return as reported by registered social landlords.

Floods: EC Grants

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what applications she has made to the European Union for funding in relation to 2007 UK flood damage; what assessment she has made of applications by other European states for equivalent funding; and what funding she has secured from the European Union for such purposes. [156276]

John Healey: An application for support from the EU Solidarity Fund (EUSF) in respect of the June and July flooding in England, Wales and Northern Ireland was lodged with the European Commission on 20 August. It is for the Commission to decide what level of support to offer, and the application is currently being discussed with it.

Applications by other member states to the EUSF have resulted in offers of support ranging approximately between 2.5 per cent. and 5 per cent. of the damage suffered. The UK current estimate for total damage is over €4 billion. Of the total number of applications received by the European Commission since 2002, 23 have been accepted by the Commission and 17 rejected, with a further two withdrawn and decisions pending on five other applications.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of the homes being built in English Partnerships' eco-village in Bristol will be zero-carbon. [157560]

Mr. Iain Wright: The homes at the eco-village at Hanham Hall, Bristol are to be developed under the Carbon Challenge. The Carbon Challenge is a competition being delivered by English Partnerships on behalf of the Department for Communities and Local Government and is aimed at accelerating the house building industry's response to climate change. Hanham Hall is owned by English Partnerships and is the first Carbon Challenge site to be developed. All the homes will be required to meet Level 6, which is the highest level, of the Code for Sustainable Homes. The energy standard for code level 6 requires net zero carbon emissions for each new home. This means that, over the course of a year, the amount of energy taken from the grid to facilitate the running of the home will be less than or equal to the amount of energy returned using renewable technologies.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many units of social housing were available in *(a)* the Cheadle constituency and *(b)* Stockport local authority in (i) 2005 and (ii) 2006. [157954]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information specific to the Cheadle constituency is not held centrally, but the numbers of social rent dwellings in Stockport that are owned or managed by local authorities and registered social landlords (RSLs) are tabulated as follows:

1 April	*Local authority*[1]	*Registered social landlords*[2]	*Total*
2005	13,104	4,641	17,745
2006	13,000	4,657	17,657

Sources:
[1] Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix reported by Stockport.
[2] Statistical Return reported by registered social landlords.

RSL stock includes supported/older people self contained units and bed spaces.

Housing: Opencast Mining

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations her Department has received calling for buffer zones between domestic dwellings and opencast mines; and if she will make a statement. [157659]

Mr. Iain Wright: I am aware of two representations to the Department which called for buffer zones between domestic dwellings and opencast mines.

The Government have no plans to introduce a planning policy recommending uniform buffer zones around opencast mining sites in England. It considers that the interests of the occupants of neighbouring properties, and the environment, are better served by the present practice of considering the specific impacts of individual mining schemes in the light of all the local relevant circumstances, as part of the preparation of an environmental impact assessment for an application for planning permission.

Local Authorities: Grants

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has to make additional retrospective payments to councils under the local authority business growth incentives scheme following the successful judicial review proceedings brought against it. [157694]

John Healey: On 6 September, the Department wrote to all eligible local authorities with details of additional payments made as a result of the recent judicial review proceedings. A further explanation can be found at http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/labgi/addpayexp.pdf and individual authority grant awards can be found at http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/labgi/dtmncode20.pdf.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation in relation to the proposed local government restructuring and establishment of unitary local government. [157665]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 862W.

Mobile Homes Act 1983

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will review the operation of the Mobile Homes Act 1983 as amended in 2006; and if she will make a statement. [160109]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government accepted the majority of the recommendations made by the park homes working party in 2000. Since then, Government have been taking forward a significant programme of work to implement those recommendations. Those relating to the Implied Terms in Schedule 1 of the Mobile Homes Act 1983 came into force on 1 October 2006. The remaining recommendations are currently being taken forward and will be completed when parliamentary time allows. As the programme of work is ongoing and has been in force only for a year, we believe it is too early to decide when a review of the effectiveness of its implementation should be carried out.

Public Bodies

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance has been produced for public authorities on procurement and public-sector equality duties. [155702]

Barbara Follett: I have been asked to reply

Each of the previous equality Commissions, the Commission for Racial Equality, the Disability Rights Commission and the Equal Opportunities Commission produced guidance on procurement and the race, disability and gender public-sector equality duties respectively. The Office of Government Commerce has also produced a guidance note on social issues in purchasing which provides information on public procurement and the public-sector equality duties.

Tenancy Deposit Scheme

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government have taken to encourage landlords of student accommodation to sign up to the tenancy deposit protection Scheme; and what further plans she has to encourage such landlords to sign up to the scheme. [160203]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department has a publicity and awareness campaign for the tenancy deposit protection (TDP) scheme specifically aimed at students. The campaign was developed in close association with large student accommodation providers and the National Union of Students. TDP has been promoted to students on campuses, in student bars and in public areas, and supported by advertising via ATM machines and on student accommodation websites.

Direct marketing to students at 30 universities in England and Wales started in September 2007, led by students themselves. This encompasses distributing leaflets and posters, information on student blogging websites, web forums and direct information to letting agents offering student accommodation. It is intended that this activity will raise awareness with newly arrived students. This activity is ongoing and will be prominently repeated in January 2008, the peak time when students start searching for private rented property for the autumn term. Such awareness will equip students to know when to tackle their landlords if they believe they have failed to protect their deposits.

National and regional landlord organisations, as well as landlord forums and accreditation schemes run by local authorities, have an active role to play in ensuring that the message is disseminated to landlords. Reputable letting agents are aware of the new requirements and are responsible for ensuring that their landlord clients comply with the legislation.

Unemployment: Housing Problems

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her strategy is for helping unemployed homeless people and people living in unsettled accommodation, including hostels, into employment and independent living. [157406]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Government recognise that training and employment are a key route out of homelessness. Our homelessness strategy "Sustainable Communities: Settled Homes; Changing Lives" (2005) includes a programme of work across Government to tackle the wider causes and symptoms of homelessness, including improving access to benefits, training and employment.

The Department for Communities and Local Government is working closely with DWP, Jobcentre Plus, local authorities, the voluntary and community sector, and the private sector on a number of initiatives, including

- The Hostels Capital Improvement Programme is providing funding of over £90 million for 178 projects in 62 local authority areas to improve the physical condition of hostels and day centres and transform their services to put activity, training, work, education and social enterprise at the heart of their ethos.
- Through the Invest to Save Budget, the Government are supporting the Transitional Spaces Project led by Off the Streets and Into Work project, which plans to work with hostel residents to build their skills and gain sustainable employment.
- Government are supporting the Working Future pilot, which is testing the impact of reduced rents and increased access to employment services on work incentives for families with dependent children in private sector leased temporary accommodation in East London.
- The Department also continues to support a number of organisations, including Business Action on Homelessness and the Construction Youth Trust, working to support people who have experienced homelessness into work.
- Ongoing work with DWP includes reforming the housing benefit subsidy regime to reflect the true costs of temporary accommodation, and supporting DWP's ongoing improvements to housing benefit administration.

The Government are committed to ensuring that the most vulnerable adults are offered the chance to get back on a path to a more successful life, by increasing the proportion of socially excluded adults in settled accommodation and in employment, education or training.

WALES

Departments: Manpower

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many and what percentage of employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by his Department are above state retirement age. [158940]

Mr. Hain: My Department does not have executive agencies or non-departmental public bodies.

Data on the number and percentage of employees above state retirement age for my Department are not available from published sources.

Departments: Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales (1) how many citizens' juries have been arranged by his Department since June 2007; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the estimated cost is of each exercise; [159500]

(2) how many citizens' juries were arranged for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies in each year since 1997; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the cost was of each. [160007]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office has not conducted any citizens' juries between 1997 and the present, nor are any currently being arranged.

Departments: Standards

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many of his Department's public service agreement targets *(a)* take and *(b)* do not take account of rural proofing. [159635]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office does not have public service agreement targets. My Department's objectives, performance targets and indicators can be found in its annual report.

The 2007 Report (CM7110) can be obtained from the Library of the House or can be viewed on our website at

http://www.walesoffice.gov.uk/2007/AnnualReport2007.pdf

Legislative Drafting

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales if he will list the responses received by the Wales Office to the Government's consultation on their legislative programme. [160296]

Mr. Hain: The Leader of the House of Commons has already committed to publishing a summary of all consultation responses and she will do so at the start of the next session.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Nationals Overseas: Courts

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what *(a)* aid and *(b)* advice is provided to British citizens who are called upon to act as witnesses in foreign courts; and when such support was last reviewed; [158885]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of British citizens involved in court cases abroad in each of the last five years; [158963]

(3) what information his Department holds on the average level of expenses faced by British citizens who act as witnesses in court cases abroad; and what advice his Department gives such people. [159086]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) plays no direct role in arrangements for British nationals acting as witnesses in court cases abroad and therefore does not hold information on the level of expenses involved. For the same reason, I am unable to make an estimate of the number of British nationals involved in court cases abroad in each of the last five years.

When requested, the FCO and consular staff overseas will provide consular assistance in line with the practice set out in our publication "Support for British Nationals Abroad: A Guide", including general information on legal and police procedures in the country concerned and lists of local English-speaking lawyers and interpreters. Copies of "Support for British Nationals Abroad: A Guide" are available in the Library of the House. Guidance for consular officials was fully reviewed in May 2007.

Burma: Association of South East Asian Nations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps have been taken by *(a)* the UK Government and *(b)* the EU to engage with the Association of South East Asian Nations Governments on the situation in Burma. [159115]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I have been in regular contact with Ministers from Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states to explain our position and urge them to remain firm in their support for regional and international action on Burma. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised Burma with his counterparts from Singapore and Thailand in New York on 26 September. I have raised the issue with Ministers and senior officials from Cambodia, Malaysia, Vietnam, Brunei, Thailand, Singapore, the Philippines and Indonesia. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, raised Burma with the Indonesian Foreign Minister in New York at the UN General Assembly and I held further talks with the Singapore Foreign Minister in Singapore on 22 October.

ASEAN issued a strongly worded statement on Burma on 27 September, in which it expressed its revulsion at the actions of the regime and calling on them to stop using violence against demonstrators.

EU Heads of Mission have carried out demarches in ASEAN member states, calling on them to use their diplomatic influence to encourage the Burmese regime to end the repression of demonstrators and free all political prisoners.

Burma: Oppression

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of the recent death under interrogation of a pro-democracy activist in Burma; and what representations he has made to the Burmese authorities. [159301]

Meg Munn: We are aware of reports of the death in custody of Win Shwe.

We have repeatedly condemned the Burmese Government's violent suppression of the recent peaceful demonstrations and the treatment of pro-democracy activists across Burma.

On 15 October, the Council of the European Union released a statement which called for a thorough and impartial investigation of the deaths of demonstrators and other human rights violations in Burma. We, and partners, are urging the Burmese authorities to admit the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights to Burma forthwith and co-operate fully with him.

Burma: Politics and Government

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if he will make a statement on the situation in Burma; [158655]

(2) what measures he is taking to promote freedom of speech and expression within Burma; [158656]

(3) what pressure is being placed upon the Burmese Government to stop abuses of human rights. [158657]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made a written ministerial statement on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 12-15WS, on the situation in Burma. We placed an updated compilation of reports on the situation in Burma on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website on 15 October.

On 2 October, the Human Rights Council (HRC) passed a resolution sponsored by the EU, with the strong support of the UK, which expressed deep concern about the situation in Burma. In our statement to the HRC, we drew attention to the regime's violations, including restrictions on the freedom of speech and association, and the suffering of Burma's ethnic communities.

The UK co-sponsored the presidential statement unanimously adopted by the UN Security Council on 11 October. This was the first formal action ever taken by the Security Council on Burma. The statement called upon the Government of Burma to take all necessary measures to address the human rights that are the concern of its people.

On 15 October, the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council, at which my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary represented the UK, called for a thorough and impartial investigation of the deaths of demonstrators and other continuing violations of human rights. It also called upon the Burmese regime to co-operate fully with the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Burma, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro. In response to the Burmese Government's failure to exercise restraint in their treatment of the demonstrators, the Council of the EU agreed to implement stronger restrictive measures against the regime. The strengthened measures include a ban on the import of metals, minerals, timber and semi-precious stones and a ban on investment in these sectors. These measures are designed to target the interests of the Generals, rather than to harm the people of Burma.

Our ambassador in Rangoon has also highlighted our concerns in his meetings with the Burmese Government on an ongoing basis, most recently on 25 September.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether a deadline has been set for reconciliation talks between the Burmese regime and opposition party politicians; and what the status is of these talks. [159864]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 22 October 2007]:* The UN Secretary-General's envoy to Burma, Professor Gambari, is promoting a process of national reconciliation in Burma which should include the civil opposition, including Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the minority ethnic groups and the military junta.

We hope that Professor Gambari will shortly return to Burma to take forward this process. No date has been set for meetings, but we want the reconciliation process to begin as soon as possible.

Burma: Sanctions

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on a UN arms embargo against Burma; and when this subject will next be raised at the UN Security Council. [159114]

Meg Munn: In his statement of 15 October, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said we will begin discussions with our partners about proposals for a UN arms embargo. We are taking this forward at official level.

No date has yet been agreed for further discussions in the UN Security Council, but we expect the Security Council to discuss Burma again when Professor Gambari, the UN Secretary-General's envoy, returns from the region.

An EU arms embargo is already in place. In response to the Burmese Government's failure to exercise restraint in their treatment of the demonstrations, on 15 October EU Foreign Ministers agreed to implement stronger restrictive measures against that regime. The EU is prepared to review, amend or reinforce these measures in the light of developments on the ground.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how the effectiveness of the new package of EU sanctions announced in the EU Council Conclusions on Burma/Myanmar on 15 October will be *(a)* monitored, *(b)* assessed and *(c)* reviewed; and if he will make a statement. [159867]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 22 October 2007]:* The EU monitors and evaluates sanctions through its range of geographical and thematic working groups. For Burma, the relevant working group is the Committee for Asia (known as COASI). Formal legal reviews of EU sanctions are also undertaken by the Foreign Relations Counsellors Working Party (known as RELEX).

We will be working closely with all our European partners to ensure that this new package of EU sanctions will be properly monitored, assessed and reviewed, which includes addressing any risk that goods might be diverted or re-exported to Burma. The EU is prepared to review, amend or reinforce measures in the light of developments on the ground.

We are discussing a range of broader measures with our EU colleagues that target sources of revenue for the regime, but do not hurt the civilian population. We do not exclude introducing a total ban on future investment if the regime does not make concessions on dialogue.

Whether the EU measures against the Burmese regime are strengthened or relaxed in future will depend on the regime's willingness to allow a real political transition to begin.

Burma: United Nations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the EU plans to take to promote UN engagement with Burma; what form such engagement is likely to take; and if he will make a statement. [159865]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 22 October 2007]:* EU Foreign Ministers meeting at the General Affairs and External Relations Council on 15 October condemned the brutal crackdown on demonstrators in Burma and strongly supported the actions by the UN, in particular the good offices mission of UN Special Envoy Ibrahim Gambari. The Foreign Ministers also announced the imposition of additional measures and sanctions targeting the regime.

The EU will continue to support UN engagement with Burma. The EU has regular and close contacts at all levels with the Association of South East Asian Nations and other partners through which it will underline the importance of lending full regional support to the UN and to Mr. Gambari. The EU also stands ready to review, amend or reinforce these measures, in the light of developments on the ground and the results of the good offices mission of the UN, thereby increasing Mr. Gambari's leverage with the Burmese regime. The EU will also continue to provide support for humanitarian assistance inside Burma.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Conflict

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions has he had with the Governments of *(a)* the Democratic Republic of the Congo and *(b)* Rwanda on how to deal with the militia under the control of General Nkundu. [159326]

Meg Munn: My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, met a delegation of advisers to President Kabila of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in London on 13 September and spoke with President Kabila at the UN on 26 September. On both occasions he urged the Congolese Government to continue to look for a political solution to the problems affecting the east of the country and not to take a military approach against General Nkunda.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, together with my right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for International Development, met President Kagame of Rwanda on 3 October. President Kagame had another meeting with my noble Friend the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown and my noble Friend the Under-Secretary of State for International Development, Baroness Vadera, on the same day. President Kagame agreed that integrating General Nkunda's troops into the Congolese armed forces was a necessary step towards peace. At both meetings the Government of Rwanda were urged to deliver on the commitments made in an agreement with the Democratic Republic of the Congo on 3 September.

Departments: Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people were employed by his Department on 1 January in each of the last five years; and how many of these staff were *(a)* permanent employees, *(b)* temporary staff and *(c)* contractors. [158315]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Figures for Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff numbers are published in the Civil Service Annual Statistics reports from the Cabinet Office according to a central counting convention. The figure for the full-time equivalent staff numbers for 2007 is not yet available. The numbers of full time equivalent, UK based staff (ie excluding staff employed locally at posts) for each of the previous five years and including the FCO's agencies, Wilton Park and FCO Services, were as follows:

	Number
2006	6,130
2005	5,930
2004	5,970
2003	5,950
2002	5,680

The figure provided for 2006 is as at 30 September that year. Earlier figures are for 1 April in the relevant year. The numbers for contract and temporary staff employed are not held centrally and it would incur disproportionate cost to collate this information. The growth in staff numbers in 2006 was primarily due to increases in visa and consular work. Funding for staff in these areas is derived from the fees charged for these services.

Departments: Policy

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what policy changes his Department has implemented since 27 June 2007. [159299]

Meg Munn: Foreign policy is fast-moving and constantly evolving. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has implemented a number of new and changed policies since 27 June 2007 and we have kept Parliament fully informed.

These policy initiatives cover a wide range of issues and countries including Burma, Zimbabwe, Russia, Darfur/Chad, Iraq and Afghanistan among others. Details, including statements, speeches, announcements and blogs can be found on the FCO website www.fco.gov.uk and its associated links.

EU External Relations: Zimbabwe

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the appointment of a European envoy for Zimbabwe to be agreed by the EU; and if he will make a statement. [157388]

David Miliband: The situation in Zimbabwe is of concern to all EU countries. At the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 15 October, Foreign Ministers discussed the role of an EU envoy. The Presidency, in consultation with the Secretary-General of the Council of the EU, is charged with responsibility for taking the issue forward.

International Whaling Commission

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role his Department is playing in recruiting more pro-conservation countries to join the International Whaling Commission. [159513]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 19 October 2007]:* Foreign and Commonwealth Office Embassies and High Commissions in the relevant capitals discuss whaling with their counterparts at every appropriate opportunity. In particular, conservation-minded countries are encouraged to join the International Whaling Commission and play an active part in protecting whales. This ensures that these countries are in no doubt as to the importance that the UK attaches to whale conservation.

Japan: Whales

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role his Department is playing in establishing the countries being approached by Japan to join the International Whaling Commission. [160024]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 22 October 2007]:* UK diplomatic missions in the relevant capitals are briefed and engage in discussion with their counterparts on whaling at every appropriate opportunity. Posts are aware of the need to watch for indicators that countries may join the International Whaling Commission and adopt a pro-whaling stance. Countries are lobbied and are in no doubt as to the importance that the UK attaches to whale conservation.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role his Department is playing in discussions about whaling with countries that vote with Japan at the International Whaling Commission but have no vested interest in whaling. [160025]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 22 October 2007]:* UK diplomatic posts in all the relevant capitals are briefed and engage in discussion with their counterparts on whaling at every appropriate opportunity. The UK, together with its like-minded allies, lobbies the Governments of the countries that vote with Japan at the International Whaling Commission to ensure that they are in no doubt as to the importance we attach to whale conservation.

Republic of Ireland: Diplomatic Service

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials of diplomatic rank who were responsible for or privy to *(a)* the decision to dispose of Glencairn, County Dublin, *(b)* its subsequent lease back to his Department and *(c)* the purchase of Marlay Grange, Dublin have since 2000 (i) been raised to the peerage, (ii) received Knighthoods or the rank of Dame and (iii) been recipients of any other honours from the Queen. [159052]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 22 October 2007]:* The decisions referred to were taken by Ministers after advice from officials. Many officials would have been privy to the decisions at that time and it is not possible to identify them all without incurring disproportionate cost.

Honours are awarded to officials for exceptional public service.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) how many hectares comprised the Glencairn House and estate prior to its disposal; how many hectares have subsequently been leased back; what the rental cost is for each year of Glencairn's lease back to his Department; and if he will make a statement; [159053]

(2) what the receipt from the sale of Glencairn House, County Dublin was; what the cost is each year of its subsequent rental; and what the total costs were of legal agents and other fees relating to its sale and subsequent lease back. [159056]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 22 October 2007]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the report on the Rationalisation of the Glencairn Estate, Dublin produced by the Comptroller and Auditor General to the House of Commons which gives full details of the sale of Glencairn and purchase of Marlay Grange. The report is available at:

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/nao_reports/03-04/03041088.pdf.

The Glencairn House and estate comprised 14.2 hectares and was sold for IR £27 million (£24 million) in 1999. The Ambassador remains in occupation of the house and its immediate curtilage. No land has been leased back since the sale, nor is any rent paid for the occupation of Glencairn House. Under terms agreed with the purchaser, the agreed portion of the sale price relating to Glencairn House and its immediate grounds of 2.87 hectares (IR £4 million, £3.5million approximately at today's rate of exchange) will only be payable when the Foreign and Commonwealth Office gives vacant possession. Total fees (legal and agents') relating to the sale amounted to about £170,000.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) when his Department became aware that Marlay Grange, Dublin had an asbestos problem; why the asbestos was not revealed in the survey commissioned prior to its purchase; and if he will make a statement; [159054]

(2) what the total cost was of the purchase of Marlay Grange, Dublin; what the subsequent cost to date has been of *(a)* asbestos treatment and removal and *(b)* all other refurbishment costs; what (i) other costs of maintenance of the buildings, (ii) other costs of maintenance of the grounds and (iii) other maintenance costs have been incurred; and if he will make a statement. [159055]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 22 October 2007]*: I refer my hon. Friend to the report on the Rationalisation of the Glencairn Estate, Dublin produced by the Comptroller and Auditor General to the House of Commons which gives full details of the sale of Glencairn and purchase of Marlay Grange. The report is available at

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/nao_reports/03-04/03041088.pdf.

Marlay Grange was purchased for IR £8 million in 2000 (£6.258 million). An initial survey of the property, carried out in October 1999, showed that a comprehensive refurbishment would be required. However, this was not an invasive survey as the owners were still living in the property and would not permit one. The extent of asbestos only became known after the property was purchased, when the full survey was carried out in preparation for refurbishment.

Up until mid-2004, we had spent £700,000 on works to Marlay Grange, which included asbestos removal, fees and security works. No refurbishment works have been carried out. Since mid-2004 we have incurred security and minor maintenance costs of £507,000.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he expects the new peacekeeping force to be deployed in full in Darfur. [158762]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The full deployment of the mission will depend on how quickly the force can be generated and the necessary infrastructure and support put in place. This is being carried out by the UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

The Government are pressing for the full mission to deploy as quickly as possible, as my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, stated when he met UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon and African Union (AU) Chairperson Alpha Konaré at high level meetings in New York on 21 September.

UN Security Council Resolution 1769 mandates the new AU-UN Mission in Darfur to assume authority from the current AU Mission in Sudan no later than 31 December, with a view to achieving full operational capability and force strength as soon as possible thereafter. We will continue to press all sides to meet this timetable.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress is being made towards finding a settlement in relation to the situation in Darfur. [158763]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The meeting led by the African Union (AU) and UN in Arusha on 3-6 August, attended by most rebel leaders, was an important step forward in the political process. Rebels expressed their commitment to participate fully in negotiations under AU-UN leadership, presented a common platform on key issues and urged the AU-UN to continue consultations with Darfurian civil society.

The Darfur peace talks are due to begin in Libya on 27 October. We support the AU-UN Joint Mediation Support Team who will lead negotiations. They have developed a mediation and communication plan which should help to ensure effective civil society participation. We urge all parties, rebels and the Government of Sudan to engage fully in these talks and to be prepared to negotiate. Only a political process can provide a sustainable solution to the crisis in Darfur.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received on the situation inside Zimbabwe; what steps the UK is taking to provide assistance to the people of that country; and if he will make a statement. [158841]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary regularly receives updates on the situation in Zimbabwe through our embassy in Harare, and met a member of the Movement for Democratic Change earlier this month to discuss the situation in person. Other Ministers and senior officials are in contact with members of the non-governmental organisation and civil society community and with the Zimbabwe diaspora in the region and more widely. The UK continues to provide up to £40 million in humanitarian aid keeping ordinary Zimbabweans alive. In conjunction with EU partners, we continue to apply targeted measures against President Mugabe and 130 of his elite. We ensure that the UN remains seized of the crisis and we continue to provide support for all those working for democratic change in Zimbabwe.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Offices: Access

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what meetings Ministers in his Department had with Royal Mail to discuss disability access to Crown post offices before 19 April; and what such discussions they have had since that date. [153003]

Mr. McFadden: I raised the issue as part of a wide-ranging discussion of Post Office-related matters with the Managing Director of Post Office Ltd when we met on 29 August.

Regional Development Agencies

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many regional development agencies outside London share foreign offices with the London Development Agency; and in what locations. [158121]

Mr. Timms: The London Development Agency has only one foreign office, in Beijing, and this is not shared with any other RDAs.

Regional Development Agencies: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the *(a)* total budget and *(b)* estimated administration costs are of each regional development agency in England in 2007-08. [158117]

Mr. Timms: The Regional Development Agencies' grant in aid and their administration budgets for 2007-08 are set out in the following table.

	Grant in aid	*£000 Administration*
Advantage West Midlands	296,165	20,896
East of England	139,279	11,427
East Midlands	178,624	16,500
North West	402,315	38,236
ONE	281,553	22,958
South East	166,241	20,300
South West	162,495	23,545
Yorkshire Forward	309,976	19,919

[1] RDAs have other sources of income other than grant in aid (including European funding and coalfields funding).
The Mayor approves the LDA's budget for administration.

World War Two: Medals

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether coalminers required to remain working in collieries during the Second World War will be deemed eligible for a Bevin Boy badge from his Department. [160458]

Malcolm Wicks: The purpose of the Bevin Boys Veterans Badge is to recognise those who were selected or volunteered as part of the Bevin Boys scheme. Although miners who were already employed in the pits and were exempt—along with railway and dockworkers, farmers, agricultural workers, schoolteachers and doctors, from conscription under the 1938 Schedule of Reserved Occupations—also made a similar contribution to the war effort they were not part of this process and are therefore not eligible.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Children

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many prosecutions there were for selling alcohol to children and young people under the age of 18 in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each police force area in each year between 1997 and 2004; and if she will make a statement; [158857]

(2) how many penalty notices for disorder in relation to the sale of alcohol to a person under 18 years of age were issued in each year since 2004, broken down by police force area; and how many of these resulted in an unpaid fine in each area. [158858]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested on prosecutions for selling alcohol to persons under 18 years are provided in table 1.

In addition to prosecutions, the offence of sale of alcohol to a person under 18 can attract a penalty notice for disorder (PND). The offence was added to the PND scheme on 1 November 2004, and information on the number issued with outcomes including the number resulting in an unpaid fine is provided in the attached table.

Unless contested by the offender or cancelled, an unpaid PND fine is registered at the courts at an added 50 per cent. value and the offender is then pursued through the courts for payment. Data on the number of fine registered PNDs are also provided in table 2.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts for selling alcohol to underage customers, England and Wales 1997 to 2005[1, 2, 3]

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Avon and Somerset	—	22	3		1	—	2	—	14
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	7	10
Cambridgeshire	2	7	—	4	2	—	—	4	9
Cheshire	5	14	10	6	—	4	16	20	8
Cleveland	—	2	—	—	1	1	4	10	14
Cumbria	4	11	4	—	2	2	1	1	8
Derbyshire	11	7	6	8	3	—	37	22	13
Devon and Cornwall	—	9	1	2	—	1	—	12	8
Dorset	2	6	1	—	3	—	9	10	35
Durham	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	2
Essex	6	7	2	—	2	3	7	2	8
Gloucestershire	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	5
Greater Manchester	21	27	21	22	20	39	129	180	117
Hampshire	1	7	6	3	2	4	—	9	11
Hertfordshire	—	3	—	1	—	1	1	8	3
Humberside	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	11	2
Kent	—	1	—	—	5	3	12	15	14
Lancashire	17	3	6	1	13	14	23	22	89
Leicestershire	1	3	1	1	1	10	15	10	27
Lincolnshire	—	2	—	—	—	—	17	4	11
Merseyside	8	3	—	1	—	14	42	19	16
Metropolitan Police	13	13	17	2	19	12	113	167	253

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates' courts for selling alcohol to underage customers, England and Wales 1997 to 2005[1, 2, 3]

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Norfolk	1	1	4	—	—	—	1	9	3
North Yorkshire	—	3	3	—	—	—	7	22	3
Northamptonshire	5	2	—	—	3	1	—	—	11
Northumbria	34	92	41	17	17	8	38	51	79
Nottinghamshire	3	1	7	—	—	—	9	—	11
South Yorkshire	2	4	5	14	22	—	—	5	18
Staffordshire	11	2	1	—	—	3	8	5	20
Suffolk	9	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	3
Surrey	3	3	1	—	—	5	4	10	13
Sussex	3	3	1	2	7—	8	4	4	
Thames Valley	2	4	2	1	3	—	6	28	15
Warwickshire	—	1	—	—	—	—	27	26	7
West Mercia	3	3	5	3	3	—	7	5	19
West Midlands	11	14	28	18	8	10	20	45	76
West Yorkshire	14	12	9	8	9	14	2	21	15
Wiltshire	—	2	—	2	2	1	6	10	23
Dyfed-Powys	3	3	6	8	3	2	5	24	6
Gwent	13	5	5	4	5	9	2	20	16
North Wales	1	1	2	2	1	1	7	5	10
South Wales	6	4	6	—	—	7	29	34	55
Total	215	311	205	132	158	170	616	861	1,084

[1] These data are provided on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] Covers the offences: Selling etc intoxicating liquor to person under 18 for consumption on the premises under the Licensing Act 1964 S.169 A and B as added by Licensing (Young Persons) Act 2000 S.1, Wholesaler selling intoxicating liquor to a person under 18 under the Licensing Act 1964 S.181 A(1) as added by Licensing Act 1988 S.17, Sale of alcohol to a person under 18 under the Licensing Act 2003 S. 146 and Allowing Sale of alcohol to a person under 18 under the Licensing Act 2003 S. 147. Sections 146 and 147 of the 2003 Licensing Act only came into effect from 24 November 2005, so data prior to 2005 is not available. The first two offences cannot separately identify on and off premises consumption although both are covered by the statutes. *Source:* RDS—Court proceedings database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice

Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to all persons aged 16 and over for sale of alcohol to a person under 18, with outcomes, England and Wales 2004 and 2005[1]

	2004					
Police force area	*Number issued*	*Paid in full*	*Fine registered*	*Contested in court*	*Cancelled*	*Outcome unknown*
Avon and Somerset	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bedfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cheshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cleveland	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cumbria	—	—	—	—	—	—
Derbyshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Devon and Cornwall	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dorset	22	18	2	2	—	—
Durham	—	—	—	—	—	—
Essex	7	7	—	—	—	—
Gloucestershire	127	99	22	127	99	22
Greater Manchester	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hampshire	2	1	1	—	—	—
Hertfordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Humberside	2	2	—	—	—	
Kent	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lancashire	30	3	1	—	26	—
Leicestershire	2	2	—	—	—	—
Lincolnshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
London, City of	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merseyside	2	2	—	—	—	—
Metropolitan	21	18	3	—	—	—
Norfolk	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—

Number of penalty notices for disorder issued to all persons aged 16 and over for sale of alcohol to a person under 18, with outcomes, England and Wales 2004 and 2005[1]

	2004					
Police force area	*Number issued*	*Paid in full*	*Fine registered*	*Contested in court*	*Cancelled*	*Outcome unknown*
Northamptonshire	1	—	1	—	—	—
Northumbria	1	—	1	—	—	—
Nottinghamshire	9	9	—	—	—	
South Yorkshire	2	2	—	—	—	—
Staffordshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffolk	—	—	—	—	—	—
Surrey	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sussex	—	—	—	—	—	—
Thames Valley	—	—	—	—	—	—
Warwickshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Mercia	1	1	—	—	—	—
West Midlands	6	4	2	—	—	—
West Yorkshire	4	4	—	—	—	—
Wiltshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dyfed Powys	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gwent	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Wales	1	1	—	—	—	—
South Wales	—	—	—	—	—	—
England and Wales	113	74	10	2	27	—

	2005					
Police force area	*Number issued*	*Paid in full*	*Fine registered*	*Contested in court*	*Cancelled*	*Outcome unknown*
Avon and Somerset	56	51	4	—	—	1
Bedfordshire	2	2	—	—	—	—
Cambridgeshire	11	11	—	—	—	—
Cheshire	49	46	2	—	1	—
Cleveland	33	32	1	—	—	—
Cumbria	23	23	—	—	—	—
Derbyshire	8	7	1	—	—	—
Devon and Cornwall	82	75	7	—	—	—
Dorset	22	22	—	—	—	—
Durham	—	—	—	—	—	—
Essex	120	117	6	—	—	—
Gloucestershire	42	37	5	—	—	—
Greater Manchester	127	99	22	—	5	1
Hampshire	67	58	7	—	1	1
Hertfordshire	3	3	—	—	—	—
Humberside	45	41	3	1	—	—
Kent	10	4	6	—	—	—
Lancashire	190	163	22	1	4	—
Leicestershire	46	40	4	2	—	—
Lincolnshire	26	24	1	—	1	—
London, City of	—	—	—	—	—	—
Merseyside	73	57	15	—	—	1
Metropolitan	161	133	16	—	12	—
Norfolk	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Yorkshire	—	—	—	—	—	—
Northamptonshire	39	33	4	—	2	—
Northumbria	48	45	3	—	—	—
Nottinghamshire	117	100	17	—	—	—
South Yorkshire	107	98	9	—	—	—
Staffordshire	19	18	1	—	—	—
Suffolk	19	18	1	—	—	—
Surrey	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sussex	63	61	2	—	—	—

	2005					
Police force area	*Number issued*	*Paid in full*	*Fine registered*	*Contested in court*	*Cancelled*	*Outcome unknown*
Thames Valley	12	12	—	—	—	—
Warwickshire	3	2	1	—	—	—
West Mercia	22	21	1	—	—	—
West Midlands	114	99	13	—	1	1
West Yorkshire	72	59	11	—	1	1
Wiltshire	8	7	1	—	—	—
Dyfed Powys	18	18	—	—	—	—
Gwent	20	18	2	—	—	—
North Wales	58	46	10	1	—	1
South Wales	123	108	13	1	2	—
England and Wales	2,058	1,805	211	5	30	7

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Office of Surveillance Commissioners: Inspections

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many local authorities were inspected by the Office of the Surveillance Commissioners in each year since its creation. [158135]

Mr. McNulty: Inspections of local authorities conducted on behalf of the Chief Surveillance Commissioner commenced in 2001 when 47 were inspected. The number of local authorities inspected in subsequent years as follows.

	Number
2002-03	189
2003-04	184
2004-05	111
2005-06	151
2006-07	184

Passports: Applications

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many and what percentage of first-time applicants were awarded UK passports from the Glasgow Passport Office within six to eight weeks of the date of application in the last period for which figures are available; [159183]

(2) how many first-time passport applicants in the UK who failed in their initial application for a UK passport were successful in their *(a)* second, *(b)* third and *(c)* fourth attempts in the last period for which figures are available; [159303]

(3) how many first-time passport applicants in Scotland who failed in their initial application for a UK passport were successful in their *(a)* second, *(b)* third and *(c)* fourth attempts in the last period for which figures are available. [159304]

Meg Hillier: The Identity and Passport Service does not hold data on the number of attempts an applicant for a UK passport must make to have an application accepted.

In the last five months, approximately 71,500 first-time passports were issued in Glasgow. Of these, 725 (1.0 per cent.) took six to eight weeks to complete as they were complex, non-straightforward cases.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many first-time passport applicants in the UK had their initial application refused in each year since 1997; [159306]

(2) how many first-time passport applicants from Ochil and South Perthshire had their initial application refused in each year since 1997; [159307]

(3) how many first-time passport applicants from Scotland had their initial application refused in each year since 1997. [159308]

Meg Hillier: Information is not available in the form requested. Identity and Passport Service statistics record the final outcome of applications and do not show whether the applications were initial or subsequent applications. Records of applications that do not result in the issue of a passport are broken down between those that failed because the applicant did not hold British nationality and those that were unsuccessful for any other reason. No breakdown by area or by application type is available and the information is not held for years before 2002. The available figures are as follows.

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Total intake	5,507,748	5,650,771	6,140,667	6,543,122	6,429,927
Total unsuccessful	30,131	33,613	34,094	39,085	38,251
Percentage of total intake	0.55	0.59	0.56	0.60	0.59

Sussex Police: Working Hours

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what average percentage of their time police officers in Sussex Police spent *(a)* completing paperwork and *(b)* on patrol in each of the last five years. [157798]

Mr. McNulty: Data on time spent on patrol offers only a partial indication of policing activity, but 61.1 per cent. of police officer time in Sussex was spent on front-line policing in 2006-07, which includes time in station completing incident related paperwork.

I also refer the hon. Member to the reply provided by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 537-39W.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Age Discrimination

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent representations she has received on the application of age discrimination regulations to the sale of insurance policies and holidays to older people. [149529]

Barbara Follett: The Government are considering whether there is a case for introducing legislation to prohibit harmful age discrimination in the provision of goods, facilities and services as part of an Equality Bill. A public consultation ran from 12 June to 4 September, during which time around 750 responses were submitted on the subject of the possible legislation prohibiting age discrimination. Insurance policy sales and age-targeted holidays were among the issues raised, most notably by organisations representing older and young people, industry representatives and individuals. Both issues were also fully discussed at consultation events held in London and Edinburgh. We will publish information about the responses received in due course.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Finance

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the total estimated annual cost is of *(a)* salaries, *(b)* pension contributions and *(c)* bonuses of staff employed by the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [157112]

Barbara Follett: When the new commission is at full complement, it is expected that the costs will be roughly as follows: salaries £20,000,000, pension contributions £4,400,000 and bonuses £400,000.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Manpower

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many staff are employed by the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [157109]

Barbara Follett: There are currently 410 people employed by the commission including temporary staff. There are plans to increase the number to 518 by the end of the financial year.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Marketing

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much was spent on *(a)* branding, *(b)* marketing and *(c)* website design in changing the title of the Commission for Equality and Human Rights to the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [157114]

Barbara Follett: There was no additional cost involved in changing the name.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Redundancy

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many staff employed by *(a)* the Commission for Racial Equality, *(b)* the Disability Rights Commission and *(c)* the Equal Opportunities Commission were made redundant prior to the establishment of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [157107]

Barbara Follett: No staff were made redundant from any of the legacy commissions. However, the three commissions ran voluntary severance schemes and the following numbers left the commissions: the CRE had 78 leavers, the DRC had 68 leavers and the EOC had 39 leavers.

Rape: Victim Support Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what meetings she has held with ministerial colleagues to discuss the possible closure of rape crisis centres. [157119]

Barbara Follett: This is an issue which I take very seriously and which I am discussing with other Ministers.

This Government are committed to putting victims at the heart of the criminal justice system. The cross-Government sexual violence and abuse action plan which we published earlier this year sets out our commitment to supporting victims of sexual assault. We have increased the capacity and stability in support services for victims by extending the network of sexual assault referral centres, with the intention of 30 being in place by the end of this financial year. There has also been significant investment in the specialist voluntary sector, including rape crisis centres. That includes an increase in the funding made available this year.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department *(a)* allocated for spending and *(b)* spent on (i) the arts, (ii) sport and (iii) heritage in each year since 1997 in 2007-08 prices. [158829]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 17 October 2007]:* The table shows how much the Department for Culture, Media and Sport allocated and spent on the arts, sport and heritage from 1997 to 2007-08 in 2007-08 prices. Spend figures for 2007-08 are not yet available.

Sector	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Arts											
Allocation	250.9	248.8	281.0	287.9	297.7	337.7	384.4	408.8	432.7	442.9	420.3

Sector	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Spend	250.9	248.8	280.6	287.5	297.4	332.0	361.9	399.5	433.4	442.0	—
Sport											
Allocation	64.0	61.6	63.4	63.3	80.9	127.8	108.0	157.6	158.4	188.2	186.4
Spend	64.0	61.5	63.0	63.3	75.8	125.1	87.5	120.3	124.0	173.3	—
Heritage											
Allocation	198.8	188.6	180.9	181.4	178.5	214.6	174.7	185.0	202.4	205.9	190.7
Spend	199.0	185.7	177.8	180.2	167.0	178.7	173.1	182.2	174.3	193.6	—

Big Lottery Fund

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 311W, on the Big Lottery Fund, which statutory bodies received grants, and for what purpose, in each year since 2004. [158825]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 17 October 2007]:* I am arranging for the tables to be placed in the House Library, listing statutory bodies, by organisation type, that have received Big Lottery Fund grants since 2004 and the programme name under which they have received those grants. A glossary, explaining the purpose of each programme, is also included. The information requested by year for each statutory body, including the purpose of each grant (approximately 2000 in 2005 alone), could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

British Bob Skeleton Association: Finance

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what criteria are used in deciding whether to fund a national sport governing body; whether recognition of that body by the international federation of that sport is taken into account; and how the criteria were applied in the case of the British Bob Skeleton Association. [159239]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The criteria used by Sport England to determine whether a national sports governing body received whole sport or one stop plan funding between 2005-09 was based on the sport's current ability to deliver mass participation and elite performance and the potential ability to deliver growing levels of participation and strong elite performance.

The criteria used by UK Sport to decide whether to fund a national sport governing body through the world class performance programme are principally based on performance evidence—a combination of the past results and future medal potential of its athletes.

For both Sport England and UK Sport recognition of that body by the international federation of that sport is taken into account, but is not in itself a determining factor. Additionally, under UK Sport's criteria, the right to compete in events under international federation control is essential

In the case of the British Bob Skeleton Association, the decision to fund its current world class performance programme was based primarily on its being our most successful winter sport in recent years, having won a medal at both the Salt Lake City and Turin Winter Olympic Games.

Departments: Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people were employed by his Department on 1 January in each of the last five years; and how many of these staff were *(a)* permanent employees, *(b)* temporary staff and *(c)* contractors. [158319]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I refer the hon. Member to the information published by the Office for National Statistics in Table 6 of the Quarterly Public Sector Employment First Release for the latest year i.e. 31 March 2007 http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/pse0607.pdf

For earlier years, I refer the hon. Member to Table A of the Civil Service Statistics publications shown in the following table.

Date of Data	Link
Sept 2006	http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422
April 2005	http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/reports/2005/tables_and_charts/index.asp
April 2004	http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/managent/statistics/reports/2004/tables_and_charts/index.asp
April 2003	http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/reports/2003/tables_and_charts/index.asp

Notes:
1. Statistics are not collected or published for the reference date 1 January.
2. The Civil Service statistics represent those employees paid directly from the Department's payroll.
3. For 2005 and 2006 the Civil Service Statistics were not published with the permanent and temporary/casual breakdown. The information for 30 September 2006 is shown in the following table.

	Headcount permanent	Headcount temporary/casual	Headcount total	FTE permanent	FTE temporary/casual	FTE total
Department for Culture Media and Sport	550	0	550	540	0	540
Royal Parks	90	10	100	80	10	90

Note:
Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.

Any contractors are employed via agencies and so not paid directly by the Department or its agency. Information on contractors therefore cannot be provided.

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on how many occasions he has visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [158917]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Since taking up his post on 28 June 2007, the Secretary of State has officially visited the north-west four times; the west midlands once; the east of England twice; and London seven times. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code.

Gambling: Credit Cards

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with banks and other financial institutions which issue credit cards on the use of such cards in gambling; if he will bring forward proposals restricting the use of credit cards for gambling; and if he will make a statement. [159481]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government are committed to ensuring there are proper controls and safeguards on the use of credit cards for gambling, particularly for those most at risk.

Under the Gambling Act 2005, credit cards cannot be used to pay for gambling offered by casino or bingo operators or be used to play gaming machines. The Act contains powers for the Gambling Commission and the Secretary of State to take steps to further regulate gambling and credit through licence conditions (sections 81 and 177), if the need arises.

Where credit cards are permitted, under the commission's licence conditions and codes of practice, gambling operating licence holders have to comply with robust social responsibility requirements including conditions on the provision of credit by operators and the use of credit cards.

DCMS Ministers have not had any discussions with banks and other financial institutions on the use of credit cards in gambling. However, the Gambling Commission keeps such matters under review as part of its functions.

Museums and Galleries: Fees and Charges

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much income was generated by entrance fees by each of the national museums and galleries in each year between 1995-96 and the abolition of such charging in constant 2007-08 prices. [156709]

Margaret Hodge: Table 1 shows the gross income generated by entrance fees to the national museums and galleries sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport from 1995-96 until 2001-02, in 2007-08 prices, and table 2 shows this income in cash terms. Free admission for all children to the charging national museums and galleries sponsored by the Department was introduced from 1 April 1999, and free admission for all those aged 60 and over became effective from 1 April 2000. The Victoria and Albert Museum reintroduced universal free admission on 22 November 2001. The other formerly charging museums that introduced universal free admission from 1 December 2001 were the Imperial War Museum (main site in Lambeth), Museum of London, Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester, National Maritime Museum, National Museum of Science and Industry (Science Museum in London, and National Railway Museum in York), National Museums Liverpool, Natural History Museum (main London site and Tring branch) and Royal Armouries (Leeds and Fort Nelson sites).

Table 1: Gross income generated by entrance fees to the National Museums and Galleries sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport: 2007-8 prices

£

Museum/Gallery	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Imperial War Museum[1]	4,144,736	4,172,435	4,568,354	4,735,122	4,158,447	4,574,048	4,134,561
Museum of London	392,751	402,292	448,339	578,045	592,251	642,932	607,912
Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester	604,219	845,053	690,835	974,116	718,425	616,215	780,205
National Maritime Museum	1,956,096	1,615,740	1,527,672	1,654,405	2,162,631	1,801,174	1,291,077
National Museum of Science and Industry[2]	4,367,830	4,542,214	4,714,580	4,999,342	3,897,864	3,662,548	2,782,048
National Museums Liverpool	399,546	337,872	647,600	705,115	555,617	403,725	296,510
Natural History Museum[3]	4,449,370	5,549,257	5,649,577	5,918,733	5,195,931	5,216,903	4,288,305
Royal Armouries[4]	54,360	64,419	76,639	105,892	561,722	611,629	383,325
Tate[5]	407,700	433,844	427,901	484,611	435,945	429,826	479,745

Table 1: Gross income generated by entrance fees to the National Museums and Galleries sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport: 2007-8 prices

£

Museum/Gallery	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Victoria and Albert Museum[6]	199,227	1,617,839	2,842,518	3,039,332	2,181,340	2,846,197	1,666,651

[1] Includes the Imperial War Museum at Lambeth and Duxford, the Cabinet War Rooms, and HMS Belfast.
[2] Includes the Science Museum, South Kensington and the National Railway Museum, York.
[3] Includes the Natural History Museum at South Kensington and Tring.
[4] Figures for 1995-98 are for the Fort Nelson site only, because the Royal Armouries at Leeds was operated by Royal Armouries International (RAI) at that time. RAI ceased operating the Leeds site during 1999, therefore the figures from 1998-99 to 2001-02 include both Fort Nelson and Leeds.
[5] Tate St. Ives. The figure for 1995-96 is estimated.
[6] Includes the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington and the Theatre Museum. In 1995-96, South Kensington had free admission, but a voluntary donation of c. £4.50 was strongly suggested upon entry. Admission charges at South Kensington were introduced on 1 October 1996.
Note:
Figures from 1999-2000 to 2001-02 are estimated.
Source:
Prepared with information supplied by the sponsored national museums and galleries, and calculated with reference to the CDP Deflator Table published by HM Treasury.

Table 2: Gross income generated by entrance fees to the National Museums and Galleries sponsored by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport

£

Museum/Gallery	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02
Imperial War Museum[1]	3,049,840	3,173,731	3,576,521	3,800,909	3,405,394	3,799,064	3,516,248
Museum of London	289,000	306,000	351,000	464,000	485,000	534,000	517,000
Museum of Science and Industry in Manchester	444,605	642,783	540,848	781,928	588,325	511,809	663,527
National Maritime Museum	1,439,363	1,229,000	1,196,000	1,328,000	1,771,000	1,496,000	1,098,000
National Museum of Science and Industry[2]	3,214,000	3,455,000	3,691,000	4,013,000	3,192,000	3,042,000	2,366,000
National Museums Liverpool	294,000	257,000	507,000	566,000	455,000	335,322	252,168
Natural History Museum[3]	3,274,000	4,221,000	4,423,000	4,751,000	4,255,000	4,333,000	3,647,000
Royal Armouries[4]	40,000	49,000	60,000	85,000	460,000	508,000	326,000
Tate[5]	300,000	330,000	335,000	389,000	357,000	357,000	408,000
Victoria and Albert Museum[6]	146,598	1,230,597	2,225,380	2,439,689	1,786,321	2,363,964	1,417,408

[1] Includes the Imperial War Museum at Lambeth and Duxford, the Cabinet War Rooms, and HMS Belfast.
[2] Includes the Science Museum, South Kensington and the National Railway Museum, York.
[3] Includes the Natural History Museum at South Kensington and Tring.
[4] Figures for 1995-98 are for the Fort Nelson site only, because the Royal Armouries at Leeds was operated by Royal Armouries International (RAI) at that time. RAI ceased operating the Leeds site during 1999, therefore the figures from 1998-99 to 2001-02 include both Fort Nelson and Leeds.
[5] Tate St. Ives. The figure for 1995-96 is estimated.
[6] Includes the Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington and the Theatre Museum. In 1995-96, South Kensington had free admission, but a voluntary donation of c. £4.50 was strongly suggested upon entry. Admission charges at South Kensington were introduced on 1 October 1996.
Note:
Figures from 1999-2000 to 2001-02 are estimated.
Source:
Prepared with information supplied by the sponsored national museums and galleries

National Lottery: Sports

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was distributed to sport from the National Lottery in each year since 1997, broken down by sports lottery distributor. [158147]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The table shows the total Lottery income to the sport distributors, for the last 10 complete financial years. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand pounds.

£000

	Sport England	Sport Northern Ireland	Sport Scotland	UK Sport	Sport Council for Wales
1997-98	307,001,000	10,127,000	32,854,000	—	18,173,000
1998-99	255,901,000	8,316,000	27,439,000	—	15,053,000
1999-2000	210,868,000	7,163,000	23,585,000	18,932,000	12,625,000
2000-01	226,931,000	7,709,000	25,850,000	24,010,000	13,911,000
2001-02	228,026,000	8,004,000	25,739,000	25,615,000	14,171,000
2002-03	193,745,000	7,197,000	23,337,000	21,461,000.	12,586,000
2003-04	170,746,000	6,322,000	19,758,000	19,986,000.	10,522,000
2004-05	179,868,000	6,924,000	20,936,000	20,978,000	10,895,000
2005-06	183,328,000	7,130,000	21,263,000	21,550,000	10,943,000
2006-07	124,909,000	6,258,000	18,494,000	53,912,000	9,458,000

Radio: Reviews

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) whether his Department plans to respond to the Ofcom publication—The Future of Radio; [159697]

(2) what plans his Department has to implement the proposals outlined in Ofcom's publication "The Future of Radio". [159698]

James Purnell: Earlier this year, Ofcom consulted on the proposals outlined in its publication "The Future of Radio". I understand that Ofcom is currently considering the results of that consultation and plans to publish its conclusions by the end of the year. I look forward to considering any proposals that it presents to Government.

Rugby

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he plans to meet representatives of the English, Scottish, Irish and Welsh rugby football unions. [159902]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have regular meetings with representatives of the English RFU and last met them on 9 July 2007.

I have no current plans to meet representatives of the Scottish, Irish and Welsh rugby football unions, but am happy to do so.

Sports: Broadcasting

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what mechanisms he will use to review the list of sporting events which must be offered at a fair and reasonable price to free-to-view broadcasters; and if he will make a statement. [160427]

James Purnell: It remains the Government's intention to review the list of sporting events in around 2008-09. No decision has yet been made on the exact date and nature of the review.

Swimming Pools

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many Olympic-size swimming pools *(a)* there are and *(b)* are planned to be built before 2012 in the (i) Yorkshire and the Humber, (ii) North, (iii) North West, (iv) South West, (v) East Midlands, (vi) West Midlands, (vii) East of England and (viii) London regions. [159715]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Bath (Mr. Foster) on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 334-35W, for information about the number and location of Olympic size swimming pools in Yorkshire and the Humber; North West; South West; East Midlands; West Midlands; East of England; and London regions. There are currently no Olympic-size pools in the Northern region.

Since that reply, a new 50-metre indoor pool has been completed in Leeds (Yorkshire and the Humber).

A further four pools are either under construction or have planning permission in Liverpool (North West); Sunderland (North); Hillingdon (London); Portsmouth (South East). Discussions are also proceeding on proposals to develop further Olympic size pools in the South West, East of England, East Midlands, West Midlands and London regions, with a view to their opening before 2012.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Antisocial Behaviour: Stoke on Trent

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Respect programme in Stoke-on-Trent. [159418]

Beverley Hughes: Stoke-on-Trent is one of 77 areas that have benefited from a close working relationship with the Respect task force. Complementing its broad range of approaches to tackle antisocial behaviour and its causes, Stoke has appointed a Parenting Practitioner to work with parents of young people who are involved in or at risk of becoming involved in antisocial behaviour, and has also developed a Family Intervention Project in the Meir neighbourhood. The Local Government User Satisfaction Survey shows that the proportion of the public who perceive a high level of antisocial behaviour in Stoke-on-Trent fell from 50 per cent. in 2003-04 to 31 per cent. in 2006-07.

Child Minding: Qualifications

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what support the Government provides for child minders to obtain higher early years qualifications. [159450]

Beverley Hughes: In our Children's Workforce Strategy we set out a commitment to increase qualifications in the Early Years Workforce. We have a General Sure Start Grant (GSSG) allocation for 2007-08 that includes funding to local authorities to ensure that all early years education and child care workers receive appropriate training, development and support.

We have a Transformation Fund of £250 million from 2006 until 2008 to help deliver our long term commitment to transforming the quality of early years child care. A main aim of the fund is to achieve a greater proportion of the work force being qualified to Level 3 and above.

Children in Care

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his estimate is of *(a)* the number of children in the care of a local authority who are placed outside that authority's area and *(b)* the percentage of such children who are privately fostered; and if he will initiate a formal review of the guidance issued to local authorities on managing such placements. [159103]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 18 October 2007]:* The number of children looked after who were placed outside their responsible local authority area at 31 March 2007 was 18,400. This represented 31 per cent. of all children looked after on that date. None of them were privately fostered: children who are privately fostered are not 'looked after' by local authorities. Through the legislation to implement the "Care Matters" White Paper, we will strengthen the statutory framework so that a local authority may not place a child out of its area unless it is satisfied that such a placement is in the child's best interests. Statutory guidance for local authorities will be issued to support this.

Curriculum: Citizenship

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what response he plans to make to the recommendation of the National Foundation for Education Research Citizenship Education Longitudinal Study that the statutory citizenship curriculum be strengthened in *(a)* status, *(b)* credibility and *(c)* visibility. [159647]

Jim Knight: Citizenship is a statutory part of the national curriculum for all pupils aged 11-16 and part of a joint non-statutory framework in primary schools alongside personal, social and health education (PSHE). The recent review of the secondary school curriculum undertaken by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) gave new impetus to the citizenship curriculum by adding a new strand entitled "Identity and diversity: living together in the UK", following the recommendation in Sir Keith Ajegbo's review of diversity and citizenship. The DCSF, in partnership with CfBT and the Association for Citizenship Teaching (ACT), is running a national support programme to help schools implement these changes. From January to April 2008, there will be one day regional training events targeted at subject leaders. A national subject lead for citizenship has been appointed, who will work with 27 new regional advisers to support local networking.

We are also working with the National College for School Leadership (NCSL) to raise the status of citizenship with head teachers, providing a fully subsidised continuing professional development course for citizenship teachers to improve their skills, and developing a new, full GCSE and A-level in citizenship studies, in response to demand. In addition, guidance on the new duty for schools to promote community cohesion, which came into effect on 1 September 2007, makes clear that good citizenship education can make a significant contribution to this area and demonstrate schools' compliance.

We will continue to work with the NfER and use the findings of the Citizenship Education Longitudal Study to inform future policy.

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many websites his Department operates; how many it operated at 1 January 2005; and what the estimated annual cost has been of running his Department's websites in the last five years. [157765]

Kevin Brennan: The Department runs 25 main Government websites (URL domains). In addition the Department operates a number of sub-sites falling under the main domains.

There would be a disproportionate cost to provide the further information requested.

The Department is working towards consolidation of all its websites. Public-facing content is being migrated to Directgov and business content to Business Link.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many hits the *(a)* most and *(b)* least popular website run by his Department has received since 1 January 2007. [157766]

Kevin Brennan: The Department's corporate website (www.dcsf.gov.uk), including the former Department for Education and Skills site (www.dfes.gov.uk), was the most popular during this period with 8,660,722 unique visitors. The Foundation Degree site (http://www.foundationdegree.org.uk) was the least popular with 62,619 unique visitors during this period.

Departments: Parking Offences

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many fixed penalty tickets were incurred by vehicles within the purview of his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the total cost was. [157763]

Kevin Brennan: On receipt of a notice of intended prosecution (NIP) which results in a fixed penalty notice for parking, speeding, jumping of traffic lights etc., the driver of the vehicle will be highlighted and the details of the driver passed to the relevant authorities. At this point the matter becomes only between the authority and the driver. No record is kept of this information as it is still subject to appeal by the driver, and no costs are incurred by the Department as traffic offences are a matter for which the driver must pay directly depending on the outcome.

Departments: Standards

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many of his Department's public service agreement targets *(a)* take account and *(b)* do not take account of rural proofing. [159638]

Kevin Brennan: None of the targets underpinning the PSAs that my Department agreed in the 2007 comprehensive spending review themselves make explicit reference to rural areas. That is because the PSAs are about improving outcomes for all children and young people. However, in designing and developing policies to deliver the PSAs, particularly in the context of the forthcoming Children's Plan, the Department will take into account all factors which prevent children and young people from achieving those outcomes, including rural issues (in accordance with guidance provided by the Commission for Rural Communities and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA)).

Departments: Stationery

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much the Department for Education and Skills spent on departmental branded stationery between 1 January and 27 June. [159790]

Kevin Brennan: The spend on departmental branded stationery between 1 January and 27 June 2007 for the former Department for Education and Skills was £11,990.14.

Free School Meals: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many school children in Leeds, West were in receipt of free school meals in the last 12 months; and what percentage of the total number of school children in the area this represents. [159858]

Kevin Brennan: The requested information is shown in the following table.

Maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools[1]: school meal arrangements[2], January 2007—England, Leeds local authority and Leeds, West parliamentary constituency

	Maintained nursery and primary schools				
	Number on roll	*Number of pupils taking free school meals[3]*	*Percentage taking free school meals*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals*
England	4,148,390	544,370	13.1	658,910	15.9
Leeds local authority	60,977	8,704	14.3	11,473	18.8
Leeds, West parliamentary constituency	6,872	1,365	19.9	1,729	25.2

	Maintained secondary schools				
	Number on roll	*Number of pupils taking free school meals[3]*	*Percentage taking free school meals*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage known to be eligible for free school meals*
England	3,272,480	314,630	9.6	429,700	13.1
Leeds local authority	46,620	4,950	10.6	7,452	16.0
Leeds, West parliamentary constituency	3,937	647	16.4	986	25.0

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes boarders and dually registered pupils.
[3] Number of pupils who took a free school meal oh the day of the census in January.
Note:
National totals have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between the sum of constituent items and totals as shown.
Source:
School Census

Intimidation: Internet

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will have discussions with colleagues in the Department of Culture, Media and Sport to consider what steps can be taken to prevent use of the internet as a vehicle for bullying. [160224]

Kevin Brennan: The Government are committed to finding further actions which can improve the situation. The Department has launched an awareness campaign and issued guidance to schools, and we are in dialogue with industry to find the best way forward. In relation to all matters concerning the internet, we work closely with colleagues in other Departments, including the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice.

Pupils: Safety

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what education is given to pupils about road safety; and if he will make a statement. [159263]

Jim Knight: The Department's "Safety Education: Guidance for schools" advises how schools can deliver safety education, which would include road safety education, within the framework of personal, social and health education. It also highlights how other parts of the national curriculum can be used to develop children's ability to assess and control risks to themselves and others.

The secondary school curriculum has been reviewed this year by the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority. The revised curriculum, to be phased in from September 2008, includes new programmes of study for personal social health and economic education. There is scope to cover road safety through the key concept of risk where pupils are taught that the "ability to recognise, assess and manage risk is essential to physical safety".

It is for schools to determine how road safety education is provided to their pupils.

Schools: Sports

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* competition managers and *(b)* sports co-ordinators for schools have been appointed; and what proportion of schools are in a school sport partnership. [159455]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 19 October 2007]:* 71 competition managers have been appointed. There are 3,602 sports co-ordinators in place. All maintained schools in England are part of a school sport partnership.

Schools: Standards

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what factors affected the decision *(a)* to include pupils who have been

relocated through managed moves to new schools in the new schools performance statistics and *(b)* not to include in those statistics those pupils permanently excluded. [160080]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 22 October 2007]:* The excluded pupils' policy, in the achievement and attainment tables, was put in place to ensure schools that admitted pupils excluded from a maintained school were not penalised for doing so.

Under this policy, the admitting school can request to have excluded pupils removed from the school's number on roll. Results for the excluded pupil will still count in the school's performance figures provided the pupil was permanently excluded from another maintained school. This ensures that the admitting school's performance results are not adversely affected by taking on an excluded pupil.

Managed moves can be a good way of dealing with pupils who are at risk of exclusion, and offering them a fresh start, without going through the formal exclusion process. As they have not been formally excluded no special consideration is given to the counting of these pupils in a school's results. Pupils who move schools as a result of managed moves are attributed to the school where they were on roll at the time of the January School Census.

Special Educational Needs: East of England

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding was allocated to special needs provision in each county in the East of England in each year since 1997. [159214]

Kevin Brennan: The requested information is contained in the following table.

Budgeted net expenditure on the provision of education for children with special educational needs[1,2] in the East of England Government office region (GOR): 2000-01 to 2007-08[3]

£

Local authority name	Budgeted net expenditure on the education of children with special educational needs[1,2] 2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04
England	2,763,226,000	2,908,380,000	3,038,661,000	3,466,180,000
East of England GOR	262,754,000	281,293,000	296,178,000	339,448,000
Bedfordshire	19,250,000	21,011,000	18,838,000	24,669,000
Cambridgeshire	31,017,000	33,352,000	36,290,000	44,958,000
City of Peterborough	12,325,000	13,410,000	14,787,000	16,936,000
Essex	62,904,000	68,285,000	69,328,000	75,876,000
Hertfordshire	54,162,000	56,668,000	55,427,000	63,654,000
Luton	9,136,000	9,321,000	14,765,000	15,673,000
Norfolk	34,824,000	37,782,000	38,304,000	42,233,000
Southend-on-Sea	8,867,000	10,222,000	10,653,000	13,096,000
Suffolk	22,845,000	23,452,000	29,012,000	32,374,000
Thurrock	7,425,000	7,788,000	8,774,000	9,979,000

£

Local authority name	Budgeted net expenditure on the education of children with special educational needs[1,2] 2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08[3]
England	3,774,757,000	4,120,549,000	4,481,245,000	4,868,366,000
East of England GOR	371,652,000	393,061,000	431,678,000	473,841,000
Bedfordshire	26,198,000	27,455,000	31,224,000	32,013,000
Cambridgeshire	42,980,000	45,120,000	47,217,000	48,756,000
City of Peterborough	18,620,000	20,337,000	23,188,000	24,838,000
Essex	81,359,000	87,946,000	96,982,000	103,046,000
Hertfordshire	71,970,000	75,794,000	79,344,000	87,928,000
Luton	17,867,000	17,431,000	21,541,000	23,164,000
Norfolk	44,946,000	48,604,000	51,472,000	60,953,000
Southend-on-Sea	15,107,000	15,810,000	19,076,000	21,469,000
Suffolk	41,529,000	43,991,000	50,159,000	57,750,000
Thurrock	11,076,000	10,574,000	11,475,000	13,926,000

[1] Includes planned expenditure on the provision for pupils with statements and the provision for non-statemented pupils with SEN, support for inclusion, inter authority recoupment, fees for pupils at independent special schools and abroad, educational psychology service, local authority functions in relation to child protection, therapies and other health related services, parent partnership, guidance and information, the monitoring of SEN provision and inclusion administration, assessment and co-ordination. Also included is the funding delegated to nursery, primary and secondary schools identified as "notional SEN" and the individual schools budget (ISB) for special schools.

[2] The ISB for special schools will include some general education costs for pupils with SEN in addition to those costs specifically for SEN while the figures recorded against "notional SEN" are only indicative of the amount that might by spent by schools on SEN and, from 2004-05 onwards, "notional SEN" delegated to nursery schools was reported on section 52 for the first time (nursery schools "notional SEN" accounts for £687,000, £885,000, £1,018,000 and £1,045,000 of the respective 2004-05, 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 East of England totals). In 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 local authorities in the East of England also budgeted £55.8 million, £58.4 million and £60.1 million for SEN transport expenditure but this is not included in the above table as figures are not available prior to 2005-06.

[3] 2007-08 data are subject to change by the local authority.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand pounds and may not sum due to rounding.
2. Cash terms figures (see note 1) as reported by local authorities as at 16 October 2007.
3. The data are drawn from local authorities Section 52 Budget Statements (tables 1 and 2) submitted to the DFES. Data are not available prior to 2000-01.

Youth Services: Finance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many youth projects in each London constituency received central Government funding in each of the last five years; and how much was allocated to youth projects in London in each of the last five years, broken down by constituency. [158843]

Kevin Brennan: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not hold information relating to volumes of projects or financial information relating to constituencies. The following tables show London borough allocations from 2003-04 for centrally managed programmes which fund youth projects in the local areas. These are Positive Activities for Young People (PAYP) holiday provision, the Neighbourhood Support Fund allocations from 2006-07 (prior to this NSF was administered by managing agents and the LA breakdown is not known), and from 2006-07 the new Youth Opportunity and Youth Capital Funds (YOF/YCF).

PAYP local authority allocations 2003-07

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Central London					
Camden	368,059	368,059	651,864	502,086	502,086
Islington	368,503	368,503	652,635	502,680	502,680
Kensington and Chelsea	224,578	224,578	414,779	319,475	319,475
Lambeth	422,109	422,109	726,689	559,718	559,718
Southwark	413,861	413,861	749,156	577,023	577,023
Wandsworth	214,883	214,883	406,609	313,183	313,183
Westminster, City of	400,828	400,828	704,963	542,984	542,984
Total	2,412,821	2,412,821	4,306,694	3,317,148	3,317,148
London East					
Barking and Dagenham	271,392	271,392	469,076	361,297	361,297
Bexley	74,163	74,163	188,891	145,490	145,490
Greenwich	353,860	353,860	589,107	453,748	453,748
Hackney	474,752	474,752	765,209	589,387	589,387
Havering	25,655	25,655	161,842	124,656	124,656
Lewisham	447,535	447,535	751,016	578,455	578,455
London, City of	1,103	1,103	56,013	43,143	43,143
Newham	587,783	587,783	977,508	752,907	752,907
Redbridge	56,767	56,767	168,311	129,639	129,639
Tower Hamlets	520,237	520,237	819,564	631,253	631,253
Total	2,813,247	2,813,247	4,946,537	3,809,975	3,809,975
London West					
Brent	335,427	335,427	657,909	506,741	506,741
Ealing	114,286	114,286	271,388	209,031	209,031
Hammersmith and Fulham	237,930	237,930	444,946	342,711	342,711
Harrow	75,959	75,959	170,123	131,034	131,034
Hillingdon	101,438	101,438	435,587	335,503	335,503
Hounslow	231,924	231,924	457,109	352,079	352,079
Total	1,096,964	1,096,964	2,437,061	1,877,100	1,877,100
North London					
Barnet	42,299	42,299	330,446	254,520	254,520
Enfield	239,216	239,216	541,020	416,710	416,710
Haringey	281,419	281,419	586,232	451,534	451,534
Waltham Forest	298,717	298,717	604,764	465,808	465,808
Total	861,651	861,651	2,062,463	1,588,572	1,588,572
South London					
Bromley	35,306	35,306	187,507	144,423	144,423
Croydon	60,871	60,871	535,716	412,625	412,625
Kingston upon Thames	12,733	12,733	88,085	67,846	67,846
Merton	20,903	20,903	134,893	103,899	103,899
Richmond upon Thames	14,623	14,623	91,909	70,791	70,791
Sutton	63,876	63,876	196,998	151,734	151,734

PAYP local authority allocations 2003-07

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Total	208,312	208,312	1,235,108	951,318	951,318
Overall total	7,392,995	7,392,995	14,987,864	11,544,114	11,544,114

Notes:
1. The increase in 2005-06 is due to combining PAYP with the Uproject, a former lottery programme.
2. The drop in 2006-07 is due to the removal of general lottery funding contribution.

NSF allocations 2006-08

Local authority area	2006-07	2007-08
Barking and Dagenham	97,127	97,127
Greenwich	51,437	51,437
Hackney	194,002	194,002
Hammersmith and Fulham	61,004	61,004
Haringey	46,712	46,712
Islington	159,346	159,346
Lambeth	213,994	213,994
Lewisham	87,158	87,158
Newham	99,293	99,293
Southwark	73,647	73,647
Tower Hamlets	124,082	124,082
Total	1,207,802	1,207,802

YOF/YCF London allocations 2006-07

Local authority	YOF	YCF
Central London		
Camden	129,061	111,628
Islington	136,353	117,935
Kensington and Chelsea	131,229	113,502
Lambeth	164,633	142,394
Southwark	221,756	191,801
Wandsworth	146,446	126,664
Westminster, City of	157,158	135,930
Total	1,086,636	939,854
London East		
Barking and Dagenham	126,439	109,360
Bexley	132,918	114,963
Greenwich	208,487	180,325
Hackney	160,908	139,173
Havering	122,809	106,219
Lewisham	197,690	170,985
City of London	50,000	50,000
Newham	200,779	173,658
Redbridge	132,434	114,546
Tower Hamlets	212,204	183,539
Total	1,544,668	1,342,768
London West		
Brent	178,245	154,167
Ealing	176,409	152,580
Hammersmith and Fulham	101,406	87,708
Harrow	115,622	100,003
Hillingdon	192,877	166,822
Hounslow	145,726	126,041
Total	910,285	787,321

YOF/YCF London allocations 2006-07

Local authority	*YOF*	*YCF*
North London		
Barnet	199,556	172,600
Enfield	195,755	169,313
Haringey	185,315	160,283
Waltham Forest	172,766	149,430
Total	753,392	651,626
South London		
Bromley	166,709	144,190
Croydon	207,844	179,768
Kingston upon Thames	90,000	72,201
Merton	114,423	98,967
Richmond upon Thames	90,965	78,678
Sutton	114,350	98,904
Total	784,291	671,708
Overall total	5,079,272	4,394,277

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Anniversaries: Oliver Cromwell

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Leader of the House what plans she has for Parliament to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the death of Oliver Cromwell. [159081]

Helen Goodman: My right hon. and Learned Friend the Leader of the House has no plans for such a commemoration, which would primarily be a matter for the House.

I understand my hon. and learned Friend will receive a substantive reply to this question from the hon. Member representing the House of Commons Commission.

Departments: Manpower

Andrew Selous: To ask the Leader of the House how many and what percentage of employees in her Office are above state retirement age. [158941]

Helen Goodman: The Leader of the House of Commons' Office forms part of the Cabinet Office. Although the Cabinet Office currently has a compulsory retirement age of 65 for all grades, staff have the right to request to continue working beyond this age.

There are currently six employees in the Cabinet Office (0.4 per cent. of all staff) who are above the statutory retirement age of 65.

Specific figures for the Leader's Office are not available. To protect the confidentiality of individuals, it is standard Government practice not to publish details relating to five or fewer individuals.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Leader of the House how much was spent by her Office on official hospitality in the last 12 months. [158898]

Helen Goodman: The Office of the Leader of the House of Commons spent £5,823 in the financial year 2006-07 on entertainment expenses.

Draft Legislative Programme

Simon Hughes: To ask the Leader of the House if she will *(a)* publish and *(b)* place in the Library before 25 October all responses to the consultation on the draft legislative programme. [160297]

Mrs. May: To ask the Leader of the House (1) if she will place in the Library a copy of the responses to the consultations received so far on the draft legislative programme; [160205]

(2) which organisations and businesses have submitted responses to the consultation on the Government's draft legislative programme; [160206]

(3) how many *(a)* written and *(b)* e-mailed submissions she has received since 11 July on the draft legislative programme in addition to those comments posted on the Cabinet Office website; and how many have been received from (i) individuals and (ii) corporations and organisations. [160207]

Helen Goodman: The Leader of the House of Commons has already committed herself to publishing a Summary of Consultation Responses, and she will do so at the start of the next Session.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Females

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made on the construction of the Women's Park in Lashkar Gar, Afghanistan; what the objectives of the project are; how much has been allocated to the project; and if he will make a statement. [160228]

Mr. Malik: The recently completed "Women and Children Park" in Lashkar Gar was funded through the Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) fund, administered by the UK-led Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Helmand. QIPs in Helmand are funded through the joint DFID, MOD, and FCO Global Conflict Prevention Pool (GCPP). The GCPP QIPs fund has an overall budget of £9 million this financial year, including £3 million from DFID. The overall cost of the park was approximately £420,000.

The park is providing much needed recreational space and facilities for the people of Lashkar Gar and the surrounding area, in particular women and children. It was built in response to identified local needs, and agreed by the Governor of Helmand and relevant Government of Afghanistan line departments. Construction of the park was implemented by the Afghan NGO, Helping Afghan Farmers Organisation (HAFO). Much of the work was carried out using local labour. One of the first major events hosted at the park was a US-funded agricultural fair to promote legal livelihoods attended by 1,700 Afghans.

Departments: Manpower

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many and what percentage of employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by his Department are above state retirement age. [158937]

Mr. Malik: DFID has 33 UK-based staff above the state retirement age as of the end of September 2007. This represents 1.92 per cent. of our work force.

DFID does not have any staff in any executive agencies or non-departmental public bodies.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent by his Department on official hospitality in the last 12 months. [158896]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Total spend on entertainment within administration cost budgets in the last 12 months was £245,500.

This figure includes working breakfasts and lunches, refreshments at meetings and official entertainment.

All entertainment is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Government Accounting.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development by what methodology the annual net cash-releasing savings of £492 million per year by 2010-11 mentioned on page 238 of the Comprehensive Spending Review have been calculated. [159552]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: DFID, like all other Departments, has agreed to make value for money savings of at least 3 per cent. annual net cash-releasing gains on our total departmental budget and 5 per cent. annual real reductions in our administration budgets by 2010-11. As in the 2004 Spending Review, the methodology for assessing gains achieved by more poverty-focused allocation is based on econometric studies by Paul Collier and David Dollar showing that the impact of aid varies with countries' per capita income and policy environment. Gains are also generated by improved performance of DFID's portfolio, as measured by the scores awarded to projects in annual monitoring reviews.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the main element will be of his Department's value for money programme which will generate annual net cash-releasing savings of £492 million per year by 2010-11, as mentioned on page 238 of the Comprehensive Spending Review. [159553]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: DFID, like all other Departments, has agreed to make value for money savings of at least 3 per cent. annual net cash-releasing gains on our total departmental budget and 5 per cent. annual real reductions in our administration budgets from a near cash resource departmental expenditure limit plus capital DEL baseline of £5,310 million. The gains on our programme budget will include allocative efficiency gains from more poverty-focused allocation of multilateral and bilateral aid, and efficiency gains from improved performance of our bilateral portfolio.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how the increased capital expenditure for his Department announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review will be allocated. [159554]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: DFID's increased capital budget will enable us to increase our contributions to effective multilateral organisations. Alongside a growing bilateral programme, spending through the multilateral helps us influence and improve the quality of the whole aid system, rather than just the money we spend directly. Our capital budget will also be used to finance debt relief and capital investments in partner countries.

Indonesia: Overseas Aid

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what value of aid the UK provided to Indonesia in each year since 1997. [159190]

Mr. Malik: Details of the UK's bilateral assistance and imputed multilateral assistance to Indonesia since 1997 are laid out in the following tables.

Table 1: UK Total bilateral gross public expenditure on development in Indonesia 1997-98 to 2006-07

Financial year[1]	*£000* *Bilateral expenditure*
1997-98	48,689
1998-99	25,494
1999-2000	58,812
2000-01	28,405
2001-02	18,232
2002-03	42,613
2003-04	17,449
2004-05	34,526
2005-06	58,553
2006-07	62,290

[1] Expenditure in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 includes post-tsunami humanitarian assistance of £11 million, £21 million and £19 million respectively.

Table 2: Imputed UK share of multilateral aid to Indonesia for 1997 to 2005

Calendar year	*£000* *Imputed aid*
1997	2,264
1998	1,781
1999	3,971
2000	8,151
2001	7,540
2002	4,704
2003	15,132
2004	9,384
2005	12,485

Overseas Aid: Environment Protection

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the *(a)* objectives and *(b)* targets of the international Environmental Transformation Fund are; what criteria he plans to use to award grants from the fund; how much (i) was allocated to the fund for disbursement in each year since its inception and (ii) has been allocated for each of the next five years; and what research he has (A) commissioned and (B) evaluated on (1) the reduction of poverty through environmental management and (2) means of assisting developing countries to respond to climate change. [159567]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The £800 million Environment Transformation Fund International Window (ETF-IW) will support development and poverty reduction through better environmental protection, and help poor countries respond to climate change. Detailed objectives, a delivery plan, broad resource allocation and monitoring arrangements will be agreed by relevant Ministers and an HMG governance board in consultation with key stakeholders over the coming months. It will be operational from April 2008. The £800 million will be committed over the next three years: £100 million in 2008-09, £200 million in 2009-10, and £500 million in 2010-11.

The World Bank is proposing a multi-donor fund to scale up international effort on sustainable development and climate change. Funds from the ETF-IW will help capitalise this fund. We want to see an open consultation on how this fund should be set up and how we can target the UK resources going into it. We would like to work with donors, recipients, the private sector and civil society in the consultation to develop a truly multilateral solution to tackling the challenges of climate change and transforming countries' development paths.

DFID, in partnership with the International Development Research Centre, is providing £24 million of research funding over five years to better understand the impacts of climate change in Africa, and to significantly improve the capacity of African countries to adapt to climate change in ways that benefit their most vulnerable citizens. We are also consulting on research priorities for climate change and poverty reduction in Latin America and the Caribbean. On environmental management, DFID has recently concluded a research programme on forests and poverty reduction, the results of which are now being integrated into our policy making. We have supported additional research work on forests and poverty reduction through the World Bank and the Centre for International Forestry Research. We are in the design phase for a research programme on water resources management and energy, and we are scoping a project which will look at how ecosystems support poor people, from the household to national level. This project will also look at how improved management of ecosystems can result in improved services for the poor.

Overseas Aid: Expenditure

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the evidential basis is of the statement made on page 237 of the Comprehensive Spending Review report that his Department estimates that UK development assistance is helping to permanently reduce the number of people living in poverty by 3 million per year. [159555]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The methodology used to estimate the impact of DFID spending on poverty is based on the econometric studies of Paul Collier and David Dollar showing that the impact of aid on growth varies with countries' per capita income and policy environment. The impact of growth on poverty reduction is estimated using an average poverty elasticity of growth. This enables us to estimate the number of people removed from poverty by our aid spending in a particular country. From this we can calculate the total numbers of people lifted from poverty by the UK's aid expenditure as currently allocated between countries; and the implications for poverty reduction of allocating our aid differently.

Republic of Congo: Overseas Aid

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid and assistance has been provided by his Department for development in the Republic of the Congo. [159012]

Mr. Thomas: Information on UK aid for the Republic of the Congo is available in the DFID publication "Statistics on International Development 2007". This publication is available online at www.dfid.gov.uk. Relevant figures are reproduced in the tables as follows.

Table 1: UK Total Bilateral Gross Public Expenditure on Development 2002-03 to 2006-07

Republic of Congo	*£ thousand*
2002-03	580
2003-04	2,071
2004-05	2,928
2005-06	106
2006-07	466

Table 2: Imputed UK Share of Multilateral Official Development Assistance (ODA) 2001 to 2005

Republic of Congo	*£ thousand*
2001	3,536
2002	852
2003	3,803
2004	2,172
2005	4,839

TRANSPORT

Driving Test

8. **Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of the driving test in producing competent and safe young drivers. [159771]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The need for a fundamental overhaul of the systems for driver training and testing was set out in the Department's report on the second three-year review of its road safety strategy published last February. That promised a wide ranging consultation which will be launched later this year.

Train Overcrowding: East Anglia

9. **Mr. Bellingham:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make a statement on overcrowding on railway lines serving destinations in East Anglia. [159772]

Mr. Tom Harris: We will continue to increase capacity through the franchising process and in other ways, such as the Cambridge Capacity Study.

The White Paper, Delivering a Sustainable Railway, published this summer, includes the High Level Output Specification, which sets out the additional rail capacity the Government propose to buy to meet the recent and forecast growth in demand for rail travel.

Stagecoach

10. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many trains an hour will run from Kettering to *(a)* London and *(b)* Leicester under the new franchise arrangements with Stagecoach. [159773]

Mr. Tom Harris: The new franchise begins on 11 November, initially retaining the existing timetable. A new timetable is due to be introduced in December 2008. That is expected to provide a basic service of two trains an hour from Kettering to London and one an hour from Kettering to Leicester supplemented by extra trains at peak times.

Road Haulage

11. **Gordon Banks:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress is being made in reducing road haulage tonnage. [159774]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Strong growth in the economy means that the total tonnage of road freight has not reduced. Government policy is to encourage sustainable freight movements that make best use of all modes, including road. Progress is such that growth in road freight is now at a slower rate than economic growth.

Heathrow: Security Delays

12. **Mr. Amess:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make a statement on delays caused by security procedures at Heathrow airport. [159775]

14. **Bill Wiggin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make a statement on delays caused by security procedures at Heathrow airport. [159777]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is paramount that the UK's aviation security regime is properly enforced. It is also clearly important that passengers are not unnecessarily inconvenienced by security measures.

At Heathrow, as at all other airports, Government are working closely with industry to ensure that both objectives are fully considered.

Crossrail

13. **Clive Efford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make a statement on the timetable for implementing Crossrail. [159776]

Mr. Tom Harris: We hope that the Bill will achieve Royal Assent by next summer.

The current programme indicates that the project design work would be concluded by early 2009 in time for the construction procurement process and the start of the enabling works.

Main construction of the scheme would begin in 2010, and we expect the first trains to run in 2017 as part of a 12 month build up to the full Crossrail service.

Local Transport Bill

15. **Dr. Blackman-Woods:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what conclusions she has drawn from responses to the consultation on the draft Local Transport Bill; and if she will make a statement. [159778]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We have received responses from a wide range of stakeholders and will be responding to these in due course.

Local Bus Services

16. **Barbara Keeley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will bring forward proposals for the public to have more involvement in making decisions about local bus services. [159779]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Proposals in the draft Local Transport Bill, published in May 2007, will give local authorities stronger powers to use on behalf of passengers in securing better bus services. We are finalising these proposals in light of responses to the public consultation and the recommendations of the House of Commons Transport Committee.

A69: Greenhead

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 12 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1580W, on the A69, Greenhead, if she will publish the agreement made in 1983 between the Ministry of Transport and the Northumberland county council on the A69 Greenhead Diversion Scheme Project. [160459]

Mr. Tom Harris: It has not been possible to locate a copy of the signed agreement between the Secretary of State and Northumberland county council. However, the draft agreement as prepared for signature has been found and I am placing copies in the Libraries of the House.

Airports: Public Transport

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on the AirTrack proposals since BAA announced that they have agreed to provide the funding for the promotion of a Transport and Works Act (1992) Order for the project; and if she will make a statement. [160448]

Mr. Tom Harris: BAA and Network Rail continue to work together to develop the AirTrack scheme. Although a TWA Order could be pursued by BAA, a considerable amount of work still requires to be undertaken, including decisions over funding the capital and revenue costs of the scheme, before such a scheme can be implemented.

Aviation: Security

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what arrangements she has put in place to ensure that medication taken into an aircraft cabin is required by the passenger. [159470]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There are no restrictions on non-liquid medicines. Passengers may take essential liquid medicine in cabin baggage if prior agreement has been obtained from the airline and the airport to carry the medication, and the passenger provides supporting documentation from a relevant qualified medical professional.

Departments: Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance her Department follows on the maximum time taken to respond to hon. Members' correspondence; and what performance against that target was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [158584]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend, the Minister for the Cabinet Office and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 45W.

First Group

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she last met representatives of First Group; and what the subject was of their discussions. [159760]

Mr. Tom Harris: The last meeting that my right hon. Friend had with representatives of First Group was on 19 July 2007. This was an introductory meeting with the Association of Train Operating Companies. At the meeting the rail White Paper was discussed.

I met a representative of First Great Western today to discuss rail services.

Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much her Department has spent on the Project for the Sustainable Development of Heathrow process in each year since 2004; and if she will make a statement; [160393]

(2) which other organisations also provided funding in relation to work carried out as part of the Project for the Sustainable Development of Heathrow; how much was provided in each case; and if she will make a statement. [160400]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Expenditure to date by the Department has amounted to roundly:

	£000
2004-05	300
2005-06	580
2006-07	690
2007-08	300

These figures include the costs of consultancy work but do not include departmental staffing costs.

The Department does not hold information on costs incurred by other parties, the great majority of which will have fallen to BAA.

Heathrow Airport: Air Pollution

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to apply for a temporary derogation in relation to nitrogen dioxide air pollution around Heathrow airport; and if she will make a statement. [160387]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The possible need for such a derogation in the context of Heathrow airport will depend on the outcome of our forthcoming consultation on the future development of the airport, and on progress with the draft proposal currently before the European Parliament for a new directive on ambient air quality and cleaner air for Europe.

Lorries: M18

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will ban heavy goods vehicles from using the third lane of the M18 motorway north of junction 6 in both directions whilst the current roadworks are taking place and the inside lane is not in use. [159658]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency has no plans to ban heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) from using the third lane of the M18 motorway north of Junction 6 in both directions while the current road works are taking place. There is a 50 mph limit throughout the works and therefore HGVs should not cause a delay to other vehicles.

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the compliance rate of the drivers of foreign registered passenger vehicles with civil and criminal legislation and regulation in England and Wales. [160107]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Vehicle and Operator Services Agency's effectiveness report records compliance rates for foreign registered passenger vehicles stopped by VOSA. No specific research has been commissioned in this area.

The effectiveness report can be found on www.vosa.gov.uk

Navigation: River Thames

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with Trinity House on the working hours regulation of pilots on the Thames. [158485]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 22 October 2007]:* None.

Public Transport: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government has taken to improve the availability of public transport in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Coventry. [159810]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government have invested in long-term public transport improvements in the West Midlands, including Coventry. Funding provided to local authorities in the West Midlands region for local highways and public transport capital projects has increased from £35 million in 2000-01 to £79 million in 2007-08.

West Midlands has also benefited from significant investment in major bus schemes, with £45 million committed since 2001 to schemes that are realising major improvements in bus services. These include the Outer Circle Bus Showcase scheme in Birmingham and the Coventry Bus Network Primelines schemes. Additionally, the Government provided £4.1 million of funding for a new public transport interchange at Coleshill Parkway, which opened in August 2007.

With regard to rail, Coventry and West Midlands has benefited from the £7.6 billion investment in the West Coast Main Line upgrade. Journey times from Birmingham to London have been reduced and by the end of 2008 the number of services on this line will increase to three trains per hour. Opportunities are also being taken to improve services as part of the new West Midlands franchise. London Midland will run additional train services from December 2008 between Birmingham and Northampton and between Birmingham and Liverpool.

The Government's Rail White Paper sets aside £128 million for improvements to Birmingham New Street to increase passenger capacity at the station. The White Paper also sets out plans for increasing capacity by 26 per cent. between 2007 and 2014 on Birmingham services in peak periods through lengthening trains and extending platforms.

Railway Network

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will establish a dedicated unit within her Department to work with organisations working to re-open dismantled railways. [159767]

Mr. Tom Harris: We have no plans to do so. Regional and local authorities are best placed to judge the contribution that a re-opened station or line would make to transport provision in their areas. We therefore look to them to develop a business case and take forward proposals of this sort. The Department is always willing to talk to scheme promoters on this basis.

Railways: Fares

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with the train operating companies and others on ways to simplify and give greater coherence to rail fares. [159990]

Mr. Tom Harris: Officials from the Department for Transport have been having discussions on behalf of my right hon. Friend with the Association of Train Operating Companies. The simplified fares structure which we are proposing is described in paragraphs 10.22-10.30 of the White Paper "Delivering a Sustainable Railway", published in July. I expect the proposals to be implemented by all operators in the course of 2008, reducing the number of ticket types in use across the network and making it easier for passengers to know they have the right ticket for their journey at the best possible price.

Railways: Finance

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much of the £15 billion for rail infrastructure which she announced recently will be set aside for *(a)* new stations and *(b)* loops to permit slow trains on high speed train lines. [159092]

Mr. Tom Harris: The rail White Paper published in July set out the Government's objectives for the railways and committed £15 billion in overall Government support for the railway between 2009 and 2014 in order to achieve them. It is now for the industry to determine how the money available should best be allocated in order to meet those objectives. It is therefore not possible at this stage to say which schemes might receive funding.

Railways: Shropshire

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the ratio of capacity to passenger numbers on Arriva Trains serving Shropshire in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [159281]

Mr. Tom Harris: The following table sets out the average weekday loadings as of spring 2007 for Arriva Trains Wales services departing from Shrewsbury and Telford:

	Number of services	*Number of passengers*	*Number of seats*	*Average load factor (percentage)*	*Highest load factor (percentage)*
Departing Shrewsbury	103	5,053	15,848	31.9	100.0
Departing Telford Central	36	2,947	5,628	52.4	116.4

The Load Factor (LF) set out in this table is based on the utilisation of seats provided (i.e. load factors of greater than 100 per cent. mean passengers will be standing.

Road Traffic: A14

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the most recent traffic flow data are for each section of the A14. [159210]

Mr. Tom Harris: The road can be considered in three lengths; from the M1/M6 motorway interchange to A1 west of Huntingdon, A1 Huntingdon to A11 east of Cambridge, and A11 to Felixstowe.

The latest obtainable figures of traffic flow data are for the year to August 2007. The tables show annual average weekday traffic flows, which is defined as the average of flows for all weekdays (Monday to Friday) within the year.

The tables show for each of these three lengths of the A14: the three busiest links between junctions on each length, the annual average weekday traffic flows for each length, and the highest daily traffic flow over the last quarter for each length. Both directional flows of traffic, eastbound and westbound, are shown.

A14 annual average weekday traffic flows[1]—September 2006 to August 2007

Directional route	*Busiest links on route*		
	Start	*End*	*Flow (vehicles per day)*
A14 M6-A1	A43	A6013	39,736
	A6013	A509	37,571
	A6	A43	35,193
Average flow over entire route:	—	—	29,802
Highest daily flow in last quarter (entire route average)—13 June 2007	—	—	33,344
A14 A1-M6	A509	A6013	38,312
	A6013	A43	36,751
	A43	A6	35,202
Average flow over entire route:	—	—	29,369
Highest daily flow in last quarter (entire route average)—13 June 2007	—	—	33,510

Directional route	*Busiest links on route*		
	Start	*End*	*Flow (vehicles per day)*
A1 Huntingdon to A11 Cambridge (eastbound)	A1126	A1198	40,069
	A1198	A1096	40,069
	A1096	M11	40,069
Average flow over entire route:	—	—	28,782
Highest daily flow in last quarter (entire route average)—13 June 2007	—	—	32,652
A11 Cambridge toA1 Huntingdon (westbound)	M11	A1096	40,628
	A1096	A1198	40,628
	A1198	A1126	40,628
Average flow over entire route:	—	—	29,028
Highest daily flow in last quarter (entire route average)—13 June 2007	—	—	32,775

Directional route	*Busiest links on route*		
	Start	*End*	*Flow (vehicles per day)*
A11 Cambridge to Felixstowe (eastbound)	A11	A142	40,316
	A12	A137	31,383
	A137	A1189	30,466
Average flow over entire route:	—	—	22,455
Highest daily flow in last quarter (entire route average)—13 June 2007			25,753
Felixstowe to A11 Cambridge (westbound)	A11	A142	43,339
	A142	A11	42,188
	A1189	A137	29,324

Directional route	Busiest links on route: Start	End	Flow (vehicles per day)
Average flow over entire route:	—	—	26,479
Highest daily flow in last quarter (entire route average)—17 June 2007	—	—	26,579

[1] Annual average weekday traffic flows (AAWT), is defined as the average of flows for all weekdays (Monday to Friday) within the year.

Road Works: M18

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason roadworks have commenced at the northernmost part of the M18 motorway on both carriageways while roadworks are still taking place just beyond the southern end of the M18 motorway on the M1; why such roadworks could not be phased so as to take place consecutively rather than concurrently; and if she will make a statement. [159659]

Mr. Tom Harris: Work commenced at the northernmost part of the M18 motorway on both carriageways to carry out essential maintenance to replace worn out carriageway. This is running concurrently with ongoing roadworks already in progress beyond the southern end of the M18 motorway on the M1. Where necessary to avoid unnecessary delays and congestion, such work is scheduled to take place consecutively. However, during preparation of the project, traffic analysis techniques were used to ensure that the M18 work would not adversely impact on the M1 widening project. Evidence on site to date suggests that this has been the case.

Roads: Cameras

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she has plans to allow safety camera partnerships to have access to *(a)* information on whether a vehicle is (i) insured and (ii) has an MOT and *(b)* other driver or vehicle information. [160086]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The police, who are an integral part of safety camera partnerships, already have access to such information.

Roads: Safety Measures

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps the Government have taken to reduce the number of deaths and serious injuries on the roads. [159520]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport is taking a great many steps to reduce deaths and serious injuries on Britain's roads, working with a wide range of partners. We published in February 2007 the second review of the Government's road safety strategy, which sets out what we have done, the progress that we have made, the issues which are our top priorities and how we intend to tackle those. A copy is in the Library of the House.

Speed Limits

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will list the locations of *(a)* existing 20 mph zones and *(b)* 20 mph zones under construction in England. [159430]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Local authorities are responsible for setting local speed limits and have had powers to introduce 20 mph speed limits and 20 mph zones without seeking the approval of the Secretary of State since 1999.

The Department does not therefore hold information on the locations of existing 20 mph zones or 20 mph zones under construction in England.

Speed Limits: Safety Measures

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of 20 mph zones in reducing the incidence of child casualties and improving road safety; and if she will make a statement. [159763]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Transport Research Laboratory Report 215 "Review of Traffic Calming Schemes in 20 mph zones", published in 1996, found that self enforcing 20 mph zones achieved an average 9 mph reduction in vehicle speeds, that accident frequency fell by 60 per cent. and that the number of accidents involving children reduced by 67 per cent.

Speed Limits: Schools

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will list the schools in England which have 20 mph zones outside them, broken down by local authority; and what percentage of schools in England have such zones outside. [159431]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 772-73W. The Department does not hold information on which schools fall within 20 mph zones or the percentage of schools that have 20 mph zones outside them.

Transport: Tickets

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the change in the cost of train tickets in real terms since 1997; and what assessment she has made of the reasons for the change. [158713]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* The Office of Rail Regulation monitors fares nationally and publishes these quarterly in National Rail Trends at the following link.

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/upload/pdf/330-rev3.pdf

Regulated fares are on average, 1.6 per cent. cheaper in real terms than 10 years ago. Regulated fares are increased by an average of RPI+1 per cent. Where fares are unregulated, train operators must price these competitively against other operators and other modes.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departments: General Elections

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what contingency preparations his Department made for the possibility of a general election in autumn 2007; and what the costs of those preparations were. [156990]

Mrs. McGuire: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Edward Miliband) on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 823W.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by his Department on official hospitality in the last 12 months. [158907]

Mrs. McGuire: The estimated spend on Hospitality for the Department for Work and Pensions for the period October 2006 to September 2007 (inclusive) is £93,000.

Any expenditure on hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Government Accounting and the Treasury handbook on Propriety and Regularity.

Departments: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was spent by his Department on redundancy payments in the last 12 months. [153190]

Mrs. McGuire: In the 12 months ending financial year 2006-07, £55.8 million was spent on early release payments. Over this period there were no compulsory redundancies.

Early release payments relating to financial year 2007-08 are not available until the end of the reporting period.

Employment: Business

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the selection criteria were for those organisations invited to sign up to his Department's jobs pledge; whether steps were taken to enable small and medium-sized enterprises to participate in the scheme; what monitoring was undertaken of the impact of the scheme; and if he will make a statement. [159669]

Caroline Flint: Local employment partnerships (LEPs) are open to all employers willing to make the commitment to open up more job opportunities to disadvantaged people. However, a managed approach has been taken to our engagement with employers. Our initial focus has been on those major national companies who have demonstrated their commitment to working with us on recruiting those often overlooked in the labour market. We are now also targeting those larger local employers who have demonstrated the same commitment.

LEPs are available to small and medium-sized employers provided they are able to offer opportunities to those at a disadvantage in the jobs market and to work with Jobcentre Plus, and its partners, on delivering the specific measures that are agreed. Each LEP agreement is different, tailored to the needs of the individual employer.

It is too early to evaluate the impact of LEPs, but evaluation of the initiative is included in the project plan. A system has been put in place to measure progress towards the target of finding work for 250,000 disadvantaged people through LEPs by the end of 2010.

Employment: Pensioners

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2283-84 on employment: pensioners; how many of those working beyond retirement age *(a)* gave financial reasons as the explanation for continuing to work and *(b)* said they would prefer not to work. [155990]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We do not have data on numbers, however our extensive quantitative research provides us with proportions that are representative of the group.

There is no fixed retirement age, but our survey showed that of those working after state pension age:

37 per cent. said they did so because they enjoyed their job/working;

13 per cent. said they wanted to keep fit and active;

22 per cent. said they did so to improve their financial position;

7 per cent. said they could not afford to retire earlier;

5 per cent. said they wanted to improve their pension.

We do not have data to show how many would prefer not to work.

Source: Factors affecting the labour market participation of older people, DWP Research Report 200, CDS 2003.

Fuel Direct Scheme

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average level of fuel direct payment was for *(a)* gas and *(b)* electricity to each supplier in the last full year for which figures are available. [159935]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is in the following tables.

Average weekly payments under the Fuel Direct scheme to gas suppliers, Great Britain; 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2007

Creditor number	*Supplier*	*Average payment (£)*
0000011814	Powergen	15.41
0000013614	NPower LTD	16.07
0000013653	NPower LTD	15.27
0000020024	British Gas Trading	14.21
0000020030	British Gas	15.78
0000025008	EDF Energy	14.52
0000025010	Enviroenergy Ltd.	13.58
0000025011	Amerada (SWEB G 1)	8.23
0000030006	EDF Energy	14.39
0000030141	Scottish Power	14.92

Average weekly payments under the Fuel Direct scheme to gas suppliers, Great Britain; 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2007

Creditor number	*Supplier*	*Average payment (£)*
0000030201	Scottish and Southern Energy	12.91
0000030333	SWALEC PLC	15.89
0000030397	EDF Energy	14.96
0000030460	Powergen	15.02
0000030648	Powergen	15.78
0000030725	Calor Gas Ltd.	13.09
0000030928	EDF Energy	16.55
0000031043	Flogas UK Ltd	21.49
0000031099	Atlantic Electric and Gas	16.45
0000031192	BP LPG UK	23.94
0000031360	Countrywide Energy (Gas)	9.98

Note:
Some suppliers have more than one account to which payments are made for both gas and electricity, where this is the case the average for each account is shown.

Average weekly payments under the Fuel Direct scheme to electricity suppliers, Great Britain; 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2007

Creditor number	*Supplier*	*Average payment (£)*
0000010002	Powergen	15.11
0000016001	Powergen	15.91
0000016012	Powergen	16.59
0000016024	EDF Energy	14.43
0000016035	NPower LTD	16.81
0000016037	NPower LTD	16.87
0000016047	Scottish Power	15.56
0000016052	EDF Energy	16.16
0000016058	SWALEC PLC	16.61
0000016062	EDF Energy	15.94
0000016065	Scottish and Southern Energy	14.03
0000030393	British Gas	13.97
0000030903	EDF Energy	15.29
0000031084	Atlantic Electric and Gas	17.86
0000031116	Good Energy Ltd.	13.98
0000031289	Ecotricity	12.93
0000031314	Utility Warehouse	20.90
0000031315	Countrywide Farmers Energy	30.03

Note:
Some suppliers have more than one account to which payments are made for both gas and electricity, where this is the case the average for each account is shown.

Funeral Payments

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support is available to people on low incomes for funeral expenses; and if he will make a statement. [159855]

Mr. Plaskitt: Funeral payments from the social fund may provide help with funeral expenses to people on a low income where someone has died and there are insufficient funds available for the burial or cremation. The person seeking help must have been awarded a qualifying income-related benefit or tax credit and have good reason for taking responsibility for the funeral arrangements. This is to ensure that available resources go to those who are least well off.

Housing Benefit

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what representations he has received on the flexibility afforded by his Department's guidance for the payment of local housing allowance. [159842]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department has received a wide range of representations about all aspects of local housing allowance.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact on the number of landlords providing tenancies to people in receipt of housing benefit of the implementation of local housing allowance. [159843]

Mr. Plaskitt: An assessment of the likely impact of landlords providing accommodation to those on local housing allowance was made for the Regulatory Impact Assessment that was carried out prior to the introduction of the Welfare Reform Bill 2006. This assessment recognised that a potential risk of the policy was that some landlords might choose not to supply accommodation to those on local housing allowance. However, evidence gathered from the local housing allowance pathfinder areas shows that, overall, the supply of accommodation to local housing allowance recipients increased by around 7 per cent. during the evaluation period.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to ensure that vulnerable people in receipt of local housing allowance can choose for the benefit to be paid directly to their landlords. [159844]

Mr. Plaskitt: Anyone can request to have their local housing allowance paid directly to their landlord. The legislative requirement is for local authorities to make payments direct to the landlord where the authority considers that the customer is likely to have difficulty in relation to the management of their financial affairs.

The Department has provided comprehensive guidance to local authorities to support the implementation of local housing allowance and has consulted fully with a range of welfare rights organisations on the delivery of direct payments to housing benefit customers. In addition to this, we have provided local authorities with best practice for implementing the local housing allowance scheme which incorporates the safeguard policy for customers who may find it difficult to manage their own financial affairs. We have recently undertaken 19 regional seminars for local authorities, which included making recommendations for applying the safeguard policy.

Within the legislation there is also provision to make payment direct to the landlord where the customer has arrears of eight weeks or more. This is mandatory where it is in the overriding interests of the customer.

Incapacity Benefit: Jobcentre Plus

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many incapacity benefit advisers are employed by Jobcentre Plus. [159625]

Caroline Flint: There are currently an estimated 1,215 incapacity benefit personal advisers in Jobcentre Plus.

Long-Term Unemployed

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will take steps to increase the environmentally sustainable mobility of the long-term unemployed engaged under the Jobs Pledge created under the local employment partnerships, to enable them to travel to and from their place of work. [157314]

Caroline Flint: For those participating in the New Deals, agreement has been reached with the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) and Passenger Transport Executives to offer reduced fares.

For those starting work, Jobcentre Plus advisers have at their discretion the ability to pay for help to get to work, which has included paying for bicycles for customers. These provisions can apply to a range of jobless customers including those who subsequently find work through Local Employment Partnerships. Once in work, arrangements for on-going travelling to and from work are a matter for individuals themselves.

Maintenance: Children

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the timescale for the transfer of Child Support Agency cases being dealt with under the old rules to Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission (CMEC) rules in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Angus constituency after the establishment of CMEC. [158437]

Mr. Plaskitt: Parents with care on benefits will be able to leave the statutory scheme and move into voluntary arrangements from late 2008. The transfer of cases for those remaining is expected to begin in 2010 and take around three years to complete. The Commission will prepare detailed plans for the transfer.

Means Tested Benefits: Pensioners

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of pensioners have been subject to means testing for the purpose of determining benefit entitlement in each year since 1993. [156917]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The available information is in the following table.

Beneficiaries aged 60 and over of income-related benefits as a percentage of the population aged 60 and over

Mid-year	*Percentage*
1993	37
1994	36
1995	34
1996	33
1997	32
1998	31
1999	30
2000	29
2001	28
2002	27
2003	27
2004	30

Notes:
1. Income-related benefits are: pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and income-based jobseeker's allowance (and predecessors of these benefits).
2. Beneficiaries is the sum of claimants aged 60 or over and claimants' partners aged 60 or over.
3. Figures are for Great Britain, in May of each year.
4. Overlaps between benefits have been removed.
5. Housing benefit data excludes any extended payment cases.
6. Council tax benefit data excludes second adult rebate cases.
7. Percentage for population has been calculated using the revised Office for National Statistics mid-year population estimates for age group 60 and over.
8. Figures based on one per cent. and five per cent. samples are subject to sampling variation.
9. Data is only available up to 2004 as overlaps between HB/CTB and other benefits can only be removed by using the 1 per cent. annual HB/CTB data, for which the latest data is still May 2004.

Source:
DWP Information Centre 1 per cent., five per cent. samples and 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study data.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, the hon. Member for Warwick and Leamington will answer the letter of the 29 May 2007 from the hon. Member for Birkenhead. [160455]

Mr. Plaskitt: This Department has no record of receiving this correspondence. If the right hon. Member would care to re-send the letter, a reply will be provided as soon as possible.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Minister of State for Employment and Welfare Reform will answer the letter of 24 August 2007 from the hon. Member for Birkenhead. [160456]

Mr. Plaskitt: This Department has no record of receiving this correspondence. If the right hon. Member would care to re-send the letter, a reply will be provided as soon as possible.

National Insurance Contributions

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of people in *(a)* Cambridgeshire and *(b)* the United Kingdom who hold National Insurance numbers and have made National Insurance contributions have made the required level of contributions to qualify for the basic state pension during each of the last 10 tax years. [156500]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* Information is only available for the United Kingdom as a whole and is in the following table.

Number of people in the UK who have paid, been treated as having paid or been credited with national insurance contributions and numbers who have gained a qualifying year as a result

Thousand

Tax year	*Total with any contributions*	*Total with enough contributions to gain a qualifying year*
1994-95	31,511	27,170
1995-96	31,800	27,853
1996-97	32,037	28,045
1997-98	32,015	28,519
1998-99	32,248	28,787
1999-2000	32,706	29,400
2000-01	32,998	29,916
2001-02	33,156	30,099
2002-03	33,336	30,240
2003-04	33,307	30,066

Notes:
1. Figures are shown to the nearest thousand
2. Some people may not have passed the first qualifying condition to receive a basic state pension in that they may not have paid at least one year of national insurance contributions.
3. Some people may not have passed the second qualifying condition in that they may not have accrued entitlement to at least 25 per cent. of the full basic state pension.

Source:
One per cent DWP Information Directorate datasets

Pensions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensions were paid into the wrong bank accounts in each of the last five years. [157187]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available in the format requested. There are many reasons why pensions could be paid into the wrong bank account. This could be due to departmental, customer or bank error.

Pensions: Carers

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to improve the state pension entitlement of people who stay at home to care for *(a)* children and *(b)* elderly relatives. [159069]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: People who are bringing up children or caring for severely disabled people can already protect their state pension through measures such as Home Responsibilities Protection and carer's allowance credits.

The Pensions Act 2007 makes further changes that will make it easier for people with caring responsibilities to build up state pension provision and will ensure that caring contributions are valued equally with paid contributions. This includes the replacement of Home Responsibilities Protection with weekly national insurance credits for those receiving child benefit for children aged up to 12, approved foster carers and those caring for severely disabled people for at least 20 hours a week. These credits will give entitlement to both the basic state pension and state second pension.

These changes will extend state pension coverage and provide simpler and fairer state pensions for carers, including those people who stay at home to look after children or to care for severely disabled people such as elderly relatives.

Pensions: Expenditure

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the net annual cost for each year from 2008 to 2025 of *(a)* paying the basic state pension at its current level, increased annually in line with average earnings to (i) all pensioners and (ii) all pensioners who have accrued at least 30 years of national insurance contributions, *(b)* raising the basic state pension to the current level of the pensions credit guarantee, increased annually in line with average earnings and paying it to (A) all pensioners and (B) all pensioners who have accrued at least 30 years of national insurance contributions and *(c)* raising the basic state pension to 60 per cent. of median population income, increased annually in line with average earnings and paying it to (1) all pensioners and (2) all pensioners who have accrued at least 30 years of national insurance contributions. [160397]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not readily available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Social Security Benefits

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number and proportion of people who have moved off jobseeker's allowance onto *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* income support in each year since 1997. [159624]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table.

Number and percentage of jobseeker's allowance terminations who flow onto incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance and income support

		Flow onto incapacity benefit / severe disablement allowance		*Flow onto income support*	
Year ending February	*Jobseeker's allowance terminations*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
1998	3,472,400	596,600	17.2	548,800	15.8
1999	3,008,300	464,200	15.0	443,000	14.3
2000	3,120,200	442,700	14.2	423,300	13.6
2001	2,903,600	406,200	14.0	392,500	13.5
2002	2,661,500	347,900	13.1	328,600	12.3
2003	2,624,800	321,800	12.3	304,000	11.6
2004	2,538,400	284,800	11.2	260,700	10.3
2005	2,320,100	237,900	10.3	205,700	8.9

Number and percentage of jobseeker's allowance terminations who flow onto incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance and income support

Year ending February	Jobseeker's allowance terminations	Flow onto incapacity benefit / severe disablement allowance		Flow onto income support	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
2006	2,196,900	188,700	8.6	162,100	7.4
2007	2,243,100	151,200	6.7	127,900	5.7

Notes:
1. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 100. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Figures for the latest year do not include any late notifications and are subject to major changes in future quarters.
Source:
DWP Information Directorate five per cent. sample and five per cent. terminations dataset.

Social Security Benefits: Chronically Sick

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department provides financial support to terminally ill people without an estate, next of kin or life insurance, to assist them in making personal arrangements for their funerals. [160433]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department does not provide financial support to people to assist them in making arrangements for their own funerals.

However, where someone has died and there are insufficient funds available for the burial or cremation, help may be available to a third party through the social fund. The person seeking help must have been awarded a qualifying income-related benefit or tax credit and have good reason for taking responsibility for the funeral arrangements. This is to ensure that available resources go to those who are least well off.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* prosecutions and *(b)* sanctions for benefit fraud there were in the last 12 months for which figures are available, broken down by benefit. [156915]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available regarding the number of benefit fraud sanctions broken down by benefit for both DWP and local authorities. Information is not available for the number of prosecutions by local authorities broken down by benefit. The available information regarding the number of prosecutions by DWP broken down by benefit is in the following table:

Benefit fraud prosecutions by DWP broken down by benefit 2006-07

Benefit	Number of cases
Disability Living Allowance	229
Carers Allowance	36
Incapacity Benefit	509
Income Support	3,345
Contributory Jobseeker's Allowance	31
Income Based Jobseeker's Allowance	718
Pension Credit	56
Retirement Pension	7
Training Allowances	4
Bereavement Benefits	7
Council Tax Benefit	824
Housing Benefit	821
Others	51

Notes:
1. The figures do not include General Matching Service cases.
2. There is a potentially some overlap in the figures. For example, someone prosecuted for an offence related to their claim for income support or jobseeker's allowance may also be counted in the figures for incapacity benefit, housing benefit or council tax benefit. For this reason, the figures cannot be added up to calculate the total number of prosecutions.
3. Figures are for prosecutions not convictions.
4. Although DWP do not administer housing benefit and council tax benefit, cases prosecuted by DWP where the recipient also receives housing benefit or council tax benefit are recorded.
5. Local authorities also prosecute offences where housing benefit and council tax benefit are in payment. However, these are not available broken down by benefit.
Source:
Fraud Information By Sector computer system.

Winter Fuel Payments: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims for winter fuel payments were made in the Leeds, West constituency in each year since their introduction. [159860]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information relating to winter fuel payments for the winters of 1997-98 and 1998-99 is not available. The information from winter 1999-2000 is in the following table.

Leeds, West Constituency

	Payments made
1999-2000	13,870
2000-01	14,920
2001-02	14,790
2002-03	14,680
2003-04	14,480
2004-05	14,030
2005-06	13,890
2006-07	13,910

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the ONS postcode directory.
Source:
Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

TREASURY

Air Passenger Duty

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to announce the opening of the consultation period on his announced changes to air passenger duty. [159300]

Angela Eagle: The Government are currently consulting informally with stakeholders and will publish a formal consultation document at the start of the new year.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on tax revenue of his recent announcement on changes to the structure of air passenger duty. [159827]

Angela Eagle: Details are set out in the 2007 pre-Budget report and in the pre-Budget report note (PBRN 24) published by HM Revenue and Customs on 9 October 2007 (www.hmrc.gov.uk/pbr2007/pbrn24.pdf).

Child Benefit

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many applications for child benefit in respect of children living outside the UK that have yet to be concluded originated in each Government office region. [159060]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Corporation Tax

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what change there will be in the amount of corporation tax a business with profits of £100,000 will pay in the 2007-08 financial year as a result of the measures announced in the 2007 budget. [158457]

Jane Kennedy: The amount of tax payable by an individual company is dependent on the specific circumstances of the company.

Departments: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what efficiency savings his Department was required to make as part of its Spending Review 2004 (SR04) targets; what efficiency projects have been undertaken in the Department in pursuit of those targets; on what date each was initiated; and how much each was predicted to contribute to the SR04 target. [160540]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury's plans for delivering its Spending Review 2004 efficiency savings are set out in its Efficiency Technical Note. In addition to publishing its efficiency plans, HM Treasury also regularly publishes its performance against these plans in its Annual Report and Accounts (previously its Departmental Report) (published each spring) and its Autumn Performance Report. These are all available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk

Departments: Flexitime

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many outstanding hours were held by staff in his Department as a result of its flexi-time scheme at the end of each of the last 12 months. [159913]

Angela Eagle: Operation of flexi-time in the Treasury is supervised by individual line managers. The information requested is not held centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many citizens' juries were arranged for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies in each year since 1997; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the cost was of each. [160021]

Angela Eagle: None.

Dietary Supplements: Channel Islands

David Tredinnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the Exchequer of low-value consignment relief made available to businesses based in the Channel Islands for the import into the United Kingdom of food supplements and herbal remedies which either contain illegal ingredients or are marketed with illegal claims; what steps officials of his Department plan to take to ensure that HM Revenue and Customs addresses this issue; and if he will make a statement. [159998]

Jane Kennedy: No estimate has been made.

HMRC continue to enforce their border controls to prevent the import of prohibited goods.

Domicile

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* proportion of non-domiciles who have been resident in the UK for more than seven years. [159479]

Jane Kennedy: The best estimate of how many non-domiciled individuals are resident in the UK is based on the number of people who indicate non-domicile tax status on their self assessment tax returns.

As at September 2007, self assessment records show that approximately 23,000 individuals had indicated non-domicile status through their self assessment returns in more than seven years in the period 1996-97 to 2005-06. This amounts to approximately 8 per cent. of the total number of individuals indicating non-domicile status over this period.

Hotels: South West Region

Mr. Cox: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effect on investment in the hotel and hospitality industry in the South West of the abolition of the hotel building allowance. [159629]

Jane Kennedy: The Government's decision to withdraw industrial buildings allowances, including the extension for qualifying hotels, was based on an assessment of a number of issues, common across

industry sectors. The Government have not sought to target the hotel and hospitality industry or any other industry with this change.

Industrial buildings allowances (IBAs) were extended to qualifying hotels in 1978. Capital allowances are not normally available on commercial buildings, so IBAs have long been recognised as a significant distortion in commercial property investment. They have become a poorly focused subsidy, selectively available on a disparate range of assets, including some that typically appreciate in value. These issues are compounded by the compliance burden imposed by their complicated rules. The withdrawal of IBAs was not an isolated measure. The 2007 Budget also announced cuts in both the basic rate of income tax and the main rate of corporation tax and crucially for hospitality, as a key sector making ongoing capital investment, the package of reforms also includes a brand new investment incentive in the form of a new Annual Investment Allowance (AIA) from 2008. The AIA gives 100 per cent. tax relief for capital investment up to £50,000 per year. For many small hoteliers—regardless of their corporate or unincorporated status—this will represent a significant incentive for new capital investment. Our analysis has shown us that the new allowance will be sufficient to allow over 95 per cent. of UK businesses to simply 'write-off' their investment in plant and machinery (excluding cars) for tax purposes each year. Taken as a whole these reforms to the business and personal tax systems are designed to deliver increases in investment and growth.

Identity Cards: Costs

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the cost of the identity cards programme to his Department. [159017]

Andy Burnham: The Identity Cards programme is being delivered by the Home Office.

The programme will not impose any costs on the Treasury.

Individual Savings Account

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will increase the amount which may be invested in an individual savings account. [159646]

Kitty Ussher: Budget 2007 announced an increase in the annual individual savings accounts investment limit from April 2008 to £7,200, with an increase in the cash limit to £3,600.

Inheritance Tax

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his assessment is of the likely total cost of the changes to inheritance tax which were announced on 9 October for each year from 2007-08 to 2012-13; and if he will break down the figure to show the changes for each income decile. [158567]

Jane Kennedy: Published figures for the estimated costs of the changes announced on 9 October to inheritance tax are published in the 2007 pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review.

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/media/6/7/pbr_csr07_chapter1_207_pdf

Figures are not available to show the breakdown of the changes for each income decile.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) which team in his Department is responsible for developing policy on inheritance tax; [159922]

(2) on what date he decided his plans for inheritance tax that he announced on 9th October 2007. [160059]

Jane Kennedy: The development of tax policy is the responsibility of the Budget, Tax and Welfare Directorate of the Treasury, together with HM Revenue and Customs.

The Treasury keeps all taxes under review. The Chancellor announced changes to inheritance tax to ensure that all married couples and civil partners can benefit from double the inheritance tax allowance, in addition to the entitlement to full spouse relief, in his pre-Budget report statement on 9 October 2007.

Insolvency

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* personal insolvencies and *(b)* individual voluntary arrangements involving a loss of tax revenue there were in each year since 1997. [159019]

Jane Kennedy: For the number of creditor petitions granted to Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC), I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Twickenham (Dr. Cable) on 6 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 1021W. The figure for 2006-07 is 3,827. This figure does not include, nor does HMRC hold, information on the numbers of Bankruptcy Petitions granted to other creditors where HMRC may also have been a creditor.

Individual Voluntary Arrangements (IVAs) were introduced by the Insolvency Act 1986 as an alternative to Bankruptcy. The Enterprise Act 2002 reduced the stigma of bankruptcy, thus encouraging enterprise and reducing the penalties for genuine business 'failure'. The number of Individual Voluntary Arrangements approved in England and Wales in the last six years where HMRC and former legacy Departments were creditors is:

2001—3,887
2002—3,304
2003—3,498
2004—3,365
2005—4,320
2006—5,524

HMRC does not have this information for earlier years.

Marginal Tax Rates

Mr. Byers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people will be subject to marginal deduction rates of over 50 per cent. under the 2008-09 tax and benefits system. [160299]

Jane Kennedy: Table 5.2 of the 2007 pre-Budget report and Comprehensive Spending Review provides estimates of the number of families who may face marginal deduction rates above 60 per cent. under the 2008-09 tax and benefit system. The following table extends the published table to include families who may face marginal deduction rates above 50 per cent., though for technical reasons such estimates are less reliable than those routinely published in Budget and pre-Budget reports.

Distribution of marginal deduction rates for heads of families under the 2008-09 tax and benefit system

Marginal deduction rate	*2008-09 system of taxes and benefits*
Over 60 per cent.	1,880,000
Over 50 per cent.	1,935,000

The table shows marginal deduction rates for families where at least one person works 16 hours or more, and where increased earnings would lead to reduced tax credits, housing benefit or council tax benefit; all notes to the published table apply.

The estimates do not take account of the annual income disregard in tax credits, which in 2008-09 allows incomes to rise between one year and the next by up to £25,000 before tax credits begin to be withdrawn.

The number of families facing marginal deduction rates in excess of 70 per cent. has fallen by around half a million as a result of the Government's reforms to the tax and benefit system.

Marriage

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* marriages of 20 to 40-year-olds per 10,000 20 to 40-year-olds, *(b)* marriages per 10,000 adults and *(c)* divorces per 10,000 adults there were in (i) England, (ii) Wales, (iii) Scotland and (iv) Northern Ireland in each year since 1980. [158640]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 19 October 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your request for the number of *(a)* marriages between 20 to 40 years olds per 10,000 20 to 40 year olds, *(b)* marriages per 10,000 adults and *(c)* divorces per 10,000 adults there were in (i) England, (ii) Wales, (iii) Scotland and (iv) Northern Ireland, in each year since 1980. (158640)

(a) Marriages between ages 20 and 40 from 1980

At a marriage either one or both partners may be aged between 20 and 40. We have therefore presented the table in terms of individuals marrying rather than marriages. In the tables below age specific marriage rates for individuals marrying aged 20 up to age 40 (that is aged 20 to 39) in each year from 1980 onwards are provided.

The information requested is not readily available for England and Wales separately; therefore in the answer to section (a) England and Wales have been combined. Data are available to 2005 for England and Wales and 2006 for Scotland and Northern Ireland.

The tables have been placed in the Library.

Mayor of London and London Assembly: Payments

Tom Brake: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will put mechanisms in place so that payments made on ceasing to hold office as Mayor of London or London Assembly Member are exempt from tax up to the first £30,000. [160048]

Jane Kennedy: The Government are aware of the proposals to introduce a severance scheme for members of the Greater London Authority under the Greater London Authority Bill and is considering the appropriate mechanisms for dealing with the taxation of any payments under the scheme.

Personal Pensions: Property

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will allow buy-to-let properties to be included in self-invested personal pensions. [159266]

Kitty Ussher: Successive Governments have provided generous tax relief on pensions saving to support individuals to make provision for a secure income in retirement, not to build assets or wealth. Self invested personal pensions (SIPPs) allow individuals who want to manage their tax relieved pension investments to do so. But buy-to-let properties are precluded from tax relief on pensions, if held by member-directed schemes, because of the potential for abuse by using the generous tax-reliefs for purposes other than to provide an income in retirement.

The Government remain committed to encouraging investment in a range of assets as part of pensions saving and therefore allows SIPPs to invest in residential property as long as it is done via a genuinely diverse commercial vehicle in which they have a less than 10 per cent. interest.

Revenue and Customs: Administration of Justice

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the occasions on which HM Revenue and Customs has been taken to court in the last five years in respect of which no proceedings remain active; for what it was taken to court in each case; and what the outcome was of each case. [159268]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Most litigation involving HM Revenue and Customs concerned disputes as to a tax liability, its administration of the tax system, or collection of tax debt.

The litigation of the Department took place in various tribunals, the magistrates courts, the High Court, the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords.

Cases were brought at the instigation of the Department, taxpayers and by others affected by the Department's actions.

Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it compulsory for HM Revenue and Customs enquiry centres to issue receipts when receiving documents and forms from customers. [160097]

Jane Kennedy: Receipts are given on request for payments and for particularly valuable original documents such as passports and birth certificates. There are no plans to extend these arrangements.

Stamp Duties

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the stamp duty thresholds for residential properties were in each year since 1996-97. [158063]

Kitty Ussher: The main thresholds for Stamp Duty and its replacement, Stamp Duty Land Tax (effective from 1 December 2003) are detailed in the following table, covering the period from 1996-97 onwards.

Threshold and rates of stamp duty

Commencing date[1]	*Nil rate*	*1 per cent.*	*1.5 per cent.*	*2 per cent.*	*2.5 per cent.*	*3 per cent.*	*3.5 per cent.*	*4 per cent.*
	Considerations up to	*Considerations exceeding*						
16 March 1993	£60,000	£60,000	—	—	—	—	—	—
8 July 1997	£60,000	£60,000	£250,000	£500,000	—	—	—	—
24 March 1998	£60,000	£60,000	—	£250,000	—	£500,000	—	—
16 March 1999	£60,000	£60,000	—	—	£250,000	—	£500,000	—
28 March 2000	£60,000	£60,000	—	—	—	£250,000	—	£500,000
1 December 2003[2]	£60,000	£60,000	—	—	—	£250,000	—	£500,000
17 March 2005	£120,000	£120,000	—	—	—	£250,000	—	£500,000
23 March 2006	£125,000	£125,000	—	—	—	£250,000	—	£500,000

[1] Information for 16 March 1993 to 28 March 2000 taken from the National Statistics publication 'Inland Revenue Statistics 2000', Table A.9. Information for dates from 1 December 2003 onwards were obtained from the publicly available data on the HMRC website (http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/so/rates/postdec03-rates.htm, hhttp://www.hmrc.gov.uk/so/rates/rates-mar05-06.htm, and http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/so/rates/index.htm).

[2] As part of a major modernisation in Finance Act 2003, Stamp Duty was replaced by Stamp Duty Land Tax (SDLT) with effect from 1 December 2003.

Tax Allowances: Capital Investment

Mr. Cox: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many responses he has received to the consultation on the abolition of industrial buildings allowance which *(a)* support and *(b)* oppose the abolition; and if he will make a statement. [159903]

Jane Kennedy: The Government are not consulting on the phased withdrawal of the industrial buildings allowance from 2008. It is not the Government's policy to consult on changes to rates of tax or the withdrawal of allowances.

Taxation: Imports

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how the figure of £145 for the value of goods that can be imported into the UK from outside the EU without paying tax was reached; when this figure was last revised; if he will make it his policy to index that figure in line with inflation; and if he will make a statement. [160083]

Jane Kennedy: The value of goods that can be imported into EU countries (including the UK) from outside the EU, without paying tax is stated in the directive on the harmonisation of provisions set out by law, regulation or administrative action relating to exemption from turnover tax and excise duty on imports in international travel (directive 69/169/EEC).

When directive 69/169/EEC was first agreed in 1969, the allowance was set at €45 (£36). In 1994, the directive was amended to increase the allowance to €175 (£136). The sterling conversion was then revalorised from £136 to £145 in 1995 to reflect exchange rate fluctuations. Since then the allowance has not been revised.

Following the announcement at Budget 2005 that the Government would be seeking increases in travellers' allowances, the European Commission issued a proposal to increase the duty-free limit on goods other than alcohol and tobacco. EU Finance Ministers reached agreement in November 2006 to increase this limit to €430 (£290) for air and sea travellers and €300 (£200) for travellers by land. It was also agreed that this limit would be reviewed every four years.

The new allowances will be introduced in the UK once the relevant European legislation has been formally amended. The Government are pressing the European Commission to bring forward the finalised legislation, so that travellers will be able to benefit from the higher limits.

Unpaid Work

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the amount of unpaid work undertaken in the economy in each of the last five years, broken down by region; [159070]

(2) what estimate he has made of the impact of unpaid work undertaken on *(a)* the economy and *(b)* public expenditure; and if he will make a statement. [159071]

Angela Eagle: It is not possible to provide reliable estimates on the amount of unpaid work undertaken in the economy.

VAT: Registration

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of VAT registration applications have been processed within the target time in 2007-08. [153424]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* The number and proportion of VAT registration applications processed within the target time in 2007-08 is;

2007	*Number within 14 days*	*Proportion (percentage) within 14 days*
January	4,671	21
February	4,506	20
March	4,022	19
April	1,493	7
May	1,883	7.5
June	3,174	17
July	3,884	13

HMRC recognise that in recent months there have been some unacceptable delays for genuine businesses. Several factors have contributed to this, including an increase in the threat of fraud, an increase in the number of applications, and both resource and IT pressures. However, HMRC have put improvement measures in place and expect that a real upturn will be visible later this year.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the average processing time was for VAT registration applications for each of the VAT registration units in the latest period for which figures are available. [153425]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* The average processing time for VAT applications for each of the VAT registration sites at 31 July 2007 was;

Registration site	*Average time taken (in days)*
Wolverhampton	32
Grimsby	38
Newry	52
Carmarthen	43

HMRC has taken steps to address the imbalance in processing times across sites and is transferring work between locations to overcome this. Since 1 October 2007, all new applications have also been handled at Wolverhampton and the relatively faster handling times there should have a significant impact on the overall average time taken.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 665-66W, on VAT: registration, how many and what proportion of VAT registration applications were processed within 15 working days in 2006-07. [154438]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* The number and proportion of VAT registration application processed within 15 working days in 2006-07 was;

2006-07	*Number/percentage*
Number processed within 15 working days	188,216
Percentage processed within 15 working days	66

HMRC recognise that in recent months there have been some unacceptable delays for genuine businesses. Several factors have contributed to this, including an increase in the threat of fraud, an increase in the numbers of applications, and both resource and IT pressures. However, HMRC have put improvement measures in place and expect that a real upturn will be visible later this year.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many applications for VAT registration were processed within *(a)* 14, *(b)* 30, *(c)* 60, *(d)* 90 and *(e)* more than 90 days after their submission to HM Revenue and Customs in the 12 month period ending 31 March. [154440]

Jane Kennedy: Revenue and Customs do not separately record the number of VAT registration applications processed within 90 or more days after their submission. The number processed within *(a)* 14, *(b)* 30 and *(c)* 60 days after their submission for the financial year ending 31 March 2007 are as follows;

Applications processed within	*Total number of applications*
14 days	77,568
30 days	242,474
60 days	281,690

HMRC recognise that in recent months there have been some unacceptable delays for genuine businesses. Several factors have contributed to this, including an increase in the threat of fraud, an increase in the numbers of applications, and both resource and IT pressures. However, HMRC have put improvement measures in place and expect that a real upturn will be visible later this year.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the reasons are for the time taken to provide new businesses with a VAT registration number; what the performance against the eight week target period *(a)* has been in the last period for which figures are available and *(b)* is expected to be over the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [158996]

Jane Kennedy: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) receive over 285,000 VAT registration applications each year and have a target of clearing complete and low risk applications within 14 days following receipt. The Government recognise that, over recent months, HMRC have fallen short of this target.

Several factors have contributed to the increased processing times. VAT registration is the entry point to serious frauds such as Missing Trader Intra-Community (MTIC) fraud, which reduced VAT receipts by an estimated £2 billion to £3 billion in 2005-06 and represents a very serious and sustained attack by organised criminal networks on the UK's VAT system. HMRC has taken steps to prevent such abuse of the VAT system, including a range of pre-registration checks, which last year weeded out over 7,000 fraudulent applications.

Earlier this year HMRC also saw a peak in the number of VAT registration applications as some businesses tried to circumvent certain anti-avoidance measures introduced in Budget 2007. As a consequence

the operational pressures on HMRC have intensified and work continues to manage the response to this pressure.

HMRC have a 14-day target for clearing complete and low risk applications rather than an eight-week target period. For 2007-08 the performance against that target is as follows:

Month (2007)	*Number within 14 days*	*Proportion (percentage) within 14 days*
April	1,493	7
May	1,883	7.5
June	3,174	17
July	3,884	13
August	3,997	14.4
September	5,686	19.75

HMRC has put in place a number of specific measures designed to improve registration processing times. It has made immediate improvements to speed up the initial vetting of applications, and is targeting its risk checks more closely on the highest risk applications, so as to minimise disruption to legitimate applications. Additional processing staff have been recruited, more of the existing staff are now dealing with VAT registration work and IT challenges have been addressed with improvements planned over coming months.

HMRC anticipate that these steps will provide significant additional processing capacity. However the lead-time for some changes, including training of new staff, means that significant improvement is not expected until later in the year. HMRC recognises that performance needs to continue to improve and will continue to work hard to reduce VAT registration delay.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr. Todd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on progress in the review of tax credit awards for 2003-04 and 2004-05 affected by HM Revenue and Customs procedural errors. [160140]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Aylesbury (Mr. Lidington) on Thursday 18 October, *Official Report*, column 1281W.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many claimants had their tax credits overpaid by *(a)* under £1,000, *(b)* £1,000 to £1,999, *(c)* £2,000 to £2,999, *(d)* £3,000 to £3,999, *(e)* £4,000 to £4,999, *(f)* £5,000 to £5,999, *(g)* £6,000 to £6,999, *(h)* £7,000 to £7,999, *(i)* £8,000 to £8,999, *(j)* £9,000 to £9,999 and *(k)* over £10,000 in the financial year (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06 and (iv) 2006-07. [160364]

Jane Kennedy: Information on the number of awards with an over or under payment of tax credits in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06, by size of over or under payment, is produced in Table 3 of the HMRC publications "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Finalised Annual Awards. Supplement on Payments In." for each relevant year. These publications are available on the HMRC website at: http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

The same information for over and under payments in 2006-07 will not be available until May 2008.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Admissions

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of *(a)* type 1 accident and emergency attendances and *(b)* 999 calls resulted in a subsequent emergency admission on the grounds of a diagnosis of (i) stroke, (ii) heart attack and (iii) serious head injury in the most recent year for which figures are available. [156790]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not collected in the format requested.

Data are provided for the numbers of finished admission episodes admitted via accident and emergency (A&E) based on codes related to the headings of stroke, heart attack and head injury (see notes for list of codes). Emergency admissions via routes other than A&E have not been included.

These are a count of the admissions to a hospital bed only, following attendance at A&E. It is not possible to distinguish whether an admission from an A&E department was following a 999 call.

Information has also been provided on the number of type 1 A&E attendances and number of ambulance emergency calls and emergency incidents.

Count of finished admission episodes (FAE) via A&E for selected primary diagnoses[1], national health service hospitals, England, 2005-06

	Count of FAE
Stroke	57,814
Heart Attack	61,974
Head Injury	124,759

[1] Count of finished admission episodes (FAE) via A&E for selected primary diagnoses Primary Diagnoses International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) codes: *Stroke:* 160 Subarachnoid haemorrhage 161 Intracerebral haemorrhage 162 Other non-traumatic intracranial haemorrhage 163 Cerebral infarction 164 Stroke, not specified as haemorrhage or infarction. *Heart Attack* 121 Acute myocardial infarction 122 Subsequent myocardial infarction. *Head Injury:* S00 Superficial injury of head S01 Open wound of head S02 Fracture of skull and facial bones S03 Dislocation, sprain and strain of joints and ligaments of head S04 Injury of cranial nerves S05 Injury of eye and orbit S06 Intracranial injury S07 Crushing injury of head S08 Traumatic amputation of part of head S09 Other and unspecified injuries of the head T00.0 Superficial injuries involving head with neck T01.0 Open wounds involving head with neck T02.0 Fractures involving head with neck T03.0 Dislocations, sprains and strains involving head with neck T04.0 Crushing injuries involving head with neck T06.0 Injuries of brain and cranial nerves with injuries of nerves and spinal cord at neck level. *Emergency admission defined as admission method 21 and 28:* 21 = Emergency: Via A&E services, including the casualty department of the provider 28 = Emergency: Other means, including patients who arrive via the A&E department of another health care provider. *Finished admission episodes* A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year. *Diagnosis (Primary Diagnosis)* The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital. *Ungrossed Data* Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed). *Data Quality* HES are complied from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

Number of attendances at Type 1 A&E Departments, England

2005-06	13,553,686
2006-07	13,602,589

Source: Department of Health Dataset QMAE.

Emergency calls to ambulance services, England

	Number (million)
2005-06	5.96
2006-07	6.33

Emergency incidents[1], England

	Number (million)
2005-06	4.77
2006-07	5.07

[1] Calls resulting in an emergency response arriving at the scene of the incident.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care. Ambulance services—England—2006-07.

Accident and Emergency Departments: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* consultants and *(b)* other staff worked in the NHS in the accident and emergency specialty in each year since 1997; and how many of each this represented per 1,000 patient attendances at (i) a type 1 accident and emergency department and (ii) all accident and emergency departments. [156795]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is shown in the following table. The data for 1,000 patient attendances for "all accident and emergency departments" have not been calculated as they include units that are not consultant led.

Hospital and community health services (HCHS): medical and dental staff[1,2] showing consultants, working within the accident and emergency specialty per 1,000 accident and emergency department patient attendances—England at 30 September each year

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
										Number (headcount)
Consultant	386	422	438	455	487	533	561	618	689	725
Consultant per1,000 patient attendance for:										
All type[1] A and E departments[3]	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.044	0.044	0.047	0.051	0.053
Other staff[2]	2,526	2,629	2,655	2,699	2,734	2,899	3,046	3,422	3,702	3,989
Other staff per 1,000 patient attendance for:										
All type[1] A and E departments	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.242	0.240	0.258	0.273	0.293

n/a = not applicable

[1] Staff with their primary specialty being accident and emergency.

[2] Other staff includes, associate specialist, staff grade, registrar group, senior house officer, foundation year 2, house officer and foundation programme year 1, hospital practitioner/clinical assistant, other.

[3] Prior to Q1 2001-02, attendance data were collected annually for all A and E types. A and E attendances split down into A and E type were first collected in 2002-03 A and E attendances at all A and E types from Q1 2003-04 onwards include attendances at walk-in centres.

Note:

Annual patient attendance figures and not quarterly patient attendance figures have been used to calculate these ratios.

Source:

The Information Centre for Health and Social Care and The Department of health

Air Pollution: Health Hazards

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to monitor the possible health implications of the emission of $PM_{2.5}$ particles from *(a)* incinerators and *(b)* other industrial processes. [158238]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not monitor the possible health implications of the emission of $PM_{2.5}$ particles from incinerators or industrial processes directly on an ongoing basis. This is not possible as any health effects of $PM_{2.5}$ particles cannot be diagnosed as specific to $PM_{2.5}$.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) currently monitors ambient concentrations of $PM_{2.5}$ in a small number of locations around the United Kingdom. Monitoring has also taken place until recently at the steel works at Port Talbot. This data is available from the National Air Quality Information Archive website at www.airquality.co.uk

DEFRA does undertake more extensive monitoring of PM_{10} with which $PM_{2.5}$ is closely correlated. PM_{10} is part of the Air Quality Information System. This system classifies air pollution concentrations according to the likely short-term effects on health.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the percentage of incidents requiring the attendance of an ambulance which were alcohol-related in 2006-07. [158988]

Mr. Bradshaw: No estimate has been made of the percentage of incidents requiring the attendance of an ambulance that were alcohol-related in 2006-07.

Anorexia

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the Government's policy is on the treatment of anorexia; and what research is being *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* commissioned by his Department. [159325]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We take the issue of anorexia and other eating disorders, especially among young people, very seriously. This is why the Department asked the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to produce a clinical guideline on the core interventions in the treatment and management of anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa and related eating disorders. NICE published the guideline in 2004 and is due to review it in January 2008.

In the four years to the end of March 2007, we invested over £400 million of additional money into the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) provided by the national health service and local authorities. These funds will assist in meeting and maintaining the Department's public service agreement standard of a comprehensive CAMHS, including services for young people with an eating disorder. Further funds totalling £130 million have been made available to the NHS and local authorities for the development of CAMHS in 2007-08.

The Department funds NHS research and development through the National Institute for Health Research. The Institute's research programmes support high quality research of relevance and in areas of high priority to patients and the NHS. This research currently includes a centrally funded trial evaluating the clinical and cost effectiveness of three treatments for young people with anorexia nervosa, and a project on the translation of experimental neuroscience into clinical practice in the treatment of the condition.

Over the last 10 years, the main part of the Department's total expenditure on health research has been devolved to and managed by NHS organisations. Details of individual NHS supported research projects including more than 200 projects concerned with anorexia are available on the national research register at www.nrr.nhs.uk.

The Department awarded £1.9 million to Professor Ulrike Schmidt, Professor of Eating Disorders at the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM) in February 2007. The grant to SLaM, in partnership with the eating disorders charity beat and the Institute of Psychiatry is designed to conduct research into the identification and treatment of anorexia.

Antidepressants: Students

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions were made to students who have filled out an HC1 form for anti-depressants in each of the last 10 years. [158990]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally in the format requested.

Broomfield Hospital: Scouts and Guides

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the estimated cost was of the care and treatment of the 53 attendees of the World Scout Jamboree in August who received treatment at Broomfield hospital, Chelmsford and were not eligible for free NHS treatment. [158832]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 19 October 2007]:* The information requested is not held centrally.

I have asked departmental officials to arrange for Ruth May, Chief Executive of Mid Essex Hospitals NHS Trust to write to the hon. Member separately with this information.

Care Homes: Abuse

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many instances of *(a)* abuse and *(b)* neglect of residents in residential care homes were (i) investigated and (ii) the subject of successful prosecution in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [159482]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Care Homes: Families

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the Government's policy is on family unit care homes. [156914]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Government believe that care homes are only one of a range of options that should be available for supporting people with long-term care needs. The Government recognise that most people want to live in their own home for as long as possible. However, there will always be some people for who care in a care home will best suit their needs and wishes.

All care homes in England are regulated, registered and inspected by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI). CSCI regulates homes according to statutory regulations and national minimum standard, which apply equally to all, from small, family-run homes to large facilities operated by corporate providers.

We appreciate that some residents will prefer the family atmosphere of a small home, while others will be more comfortable in a larger establishment. It is for service users to choose the type of home they would prefer to live in.

Community Nurses: Manpower

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many community matrons were employed on 16 October 2007. [159721]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally.

The results of the September 2007 national health service work force census will be published in the spring next year.

In September 2006 there were 366 community matrons, an increase of 99 or 37 per cent. since 2005. Based on recent discussions with a number of strategic health authorities we believe that the census may be an undercount, with community matrons most likely being recorded in the census within other occupational groups.

We are committed to increasing the number of community matrons and local development plans strongly suggest this is happening.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason his Department underspent its capital budget in 2006-07. [159959]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is contained in page 20 of the Department of Health Resource Accounts 2006-07 (HC1005) which is available in the Library. For information, this is repeated as follows.

> The Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit underspend is largely due to underspend/slippage by NHS bodies including Foundation Trusts, Connecting for Health and unallocated capital , e.g. in the Departmental Unallocated Provision (DUP) and due to the fact that a number of NHS organisations were in the process of financial recovery resulting in capital investment being delayed in some areas.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the draft of his Department's Policy Costing Handbook dated 7 March, what Delphi is; [159969]

(2) on what date the final version of his Department's Policy Costing Handbook was completed; and if he will place a copy of the final version in the Library. [159970]

Mr. Bradshaw: Delphi is the name given to the Department's intranet, and the references made in the Policy Costing Handbook refer to where related documents can be located by departmental staff.

The final version of the Policy Costing Handbook was issued in July 2007 and a copy has been placed in the Library.

Doctors: Disqualification

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors have been *(a)* struck off and *(b)* stopped from making prescriptions for prescribing controlled drugs; and if he will make a statement. [159441]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect this information centrally, and is not directly involved in the disciplining of individual doctors, or imposing conditions on their practice. Decisions about whether a doctor should be struck off the register, or have conditions imposed, are matters for the General Medical Council.

General Practitioners

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of GP practices in each of the regions had at least 50 per cent. of their patients living three or more miles away in each of the last two years. [158909]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not hold this information centrally.

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of GP practices in each of the regions was single-handed in each of the last two years. [158911]

Mr. Bradshaw: We understand that information is requested in relation to regions of Northern Ireland and England. The Department does not hold information on the numbers of single-handed practices in Northern Ireland. However, information for strategic health authority (SHA) areas in England is provided in the following table.

Number of single handed general practitioner (GP) providers[1] in England by SHA, as at 30 September 2005 and 2006

		2005			2006		
			Of which:			Of which:	
		Number of partnerships	Single handed	Percentage single handed	Number of partnerships	Single handed	Percentage single handed
	England	8,451	2,176	26	8,325	2,222	27
Q30	North East	404	85	21	396	80	20
Q31	North West	1,303	410	31	1,285	403	31
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber	826	183	22	817	183	22
Q33	East Midlands	630	117	19	621	120	19
Q34	West Midlands	989	347	35	968	330	34
Q35	East of England	802	167	21	778	173	22
Q36	London	1,591	574	36	1,579	633	40
Q37	South East Coast	649	167	26	638	159	25
Q38	South Central	511	53	10	500	55	11
Q39	South West	746	73	10	743	86	12

[1] A single handed GP provider is one that has no partners, although they may employ a GP other (salaried GP), GP registrar or GP retainer.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care general and personal medical services statistics

General Practitioners and Dentists: Lists of Patients

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average practice list size was for *(a)* GPs and *(b)* dentists in each of the regions in each of the last two years. [158910]

Mr. Bradshaw: The average general practitioner partnership list size by strategic health authority (SHA) in England, as at 30 September 2005 and 2006 is shown in the following table. The Department does not collect this data for Northern Ireland regions.

Registration is not part of the existing national health service dental system. Many dentists continue to keep practice level information on their current patient 'list' but this information is not centrally reported and therefore not available.

Information is available showing the number of dentists on open NHS contracts per head of population. The latest information was published by The Information Centre for health and social care as Annex 3 Table El of NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07 which is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-statistics-2006-07

Average partnership list size by SHA in England, as at 30 September 2005 and 2006

		2005			2006		
		Number of partnerships	*Registered patients*	*Average patients per partnership*	*Number of partnerships*	*Registered patients*	*Average patients per partnership*
	England	8,451	52,817,500	6,250	8,325	53,283,787	6,400
Q30	North East	404	2,626,296	6,501	396	2,636,773	6,659
Q31	North West	1,303	7,147,635	5,486	1,285	7,219,728	5,618
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber	826	5,260,062	6,368	817	5,310,906	6,500
Q33	East Midlands	630	4,346,153	6,899	621	4,426,994	7,129
Q34	West Midlands	989	5,613,419	5,676	968	5,629,001	5,815
Q35	East of England	802	5,729,779	7,144	778	5,755,696	7,398
Q36	London	1,591	8,309,123	5,223	1,579	8,445,425	5,349
Q37	South East Coast	649	4,375,551	6,742	638	4,424,349	6,935
Q38	South Central	511	4,169,337	8,159	500	4,159,688	8,319
Q39	South West	746	5,240,145	7,024	743	5,275,227	7,100

Sources:
The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

Health Services: Finance

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what provision his Department has made for extra funding for health services in areas with disproportionately high levels of elderly residents; [157014]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the impact of the age of the population on demand for health care. [157022]

Mr. Bradshaw: The 2006-08 revenue allocations represent £135 billion investment in the national health service—£64 billion to primary care trusts (PCTs) in 2006-07 and £70 billion in 2007-08. Over the two years covered by this allocation, PCTs will receive an average increase of 19.5 per cent.

The revenue allocations are made to PCTs based on a weighted-capitation formula. The formula has three elements, one of which is an age adjustment. The age adjustment is one of the three elements of the formula. This adjustment recognises that a principal cause of variation in the level of demand for health services is the age structure of the population. The very young and the elderly, whose populations are not evenly distributed throughout the country, tend to make more use of health services than the rest of the population. The purpose of the age weighting within the formula is to allow for varying elements of health need associated with the age structure of local populations.

The development of the weighted-capitation formula, including the age adjustment, is continually assessed and overseen by the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA). ACRA is an independent body comprising NHS management, general practitioner and academic membership. ACRA's current work programme is looking again at all elements of the formula, including the age adjustment.

Health Services: Prisons

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to assess the impact of primary care trusts assuming responsibility for the provision of health care services to prisons; and if he will make a statement. [159434]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In 2006, the Health Services Management Centre at Birmingham University was commissioned to undertake a survey of prison health partnerships in order to inform both an assessment of their progress and the process of transferring commissioning responsibility for prison health care services in public sector prisons to the national health service. A copy has been placed in the Library.

This year, the Department will introduce a set of newly designed performance indicators to assess the quality of prison health care services. These bring together a number of existing systems to support a mainstream approach to performance monitoring at a local level.

It is planned that the indicators will contribute to measuring the effectiveness of the transfer and corresponding significant increased investment in prison health. They will also act as a tool to strengthen local commissioning, governance and performance management arrangements and inform national strategy and policy development.

HM Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP) and the Healthcare Commission have worked in partnership by virtue of a memorandum of understanding since April 2006 to monitor health care standards in prisons. The Healthcare Commission now includes prison health services in its assessment of the effectiveness of commissioning arrangements in the national health service, while HMIP continues to inspect and report on health outcomes for prisoners in all public sector establishments.

Hearing Aids: Waiting Lists

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on NHS performance against targets for supply of hearing aids, with particular reference to *(a)* the wait for a first instrument, *(b)* the wait for exchange from an analogue to a digital aid, *(c)* the wait from referral to hearing assessment and *(d)* differences in performance between primary care trusts and regions in meeting those targets. [159087]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We do not collect information on the length of time people are having to wait for a first instrument or for the wait for an exchange from an analogue to a digital aid.

The number of people having to wait for a hearing assessment has fallen significantly since the launch of the national audiology framework "Improving Access to Audiology Services in England". A copy is available in the Library. Latest data for August 2007 shows that since March 2007 the number of people waiting over six weeks has fallen by 29,000 or 28 per cent.

As part of delivering 18 weeks from GP referral to treatment, there is a milestone for diagnostic tests, including audiology assessments, of a six-week maximum wait by March 2008. Information on the number of waits for audiology assessments by primary care trust has been placed in the Library.

Hearing Impaired: Health Services

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of the impact of the removal of the exemption for audiology from the 18 week GP referral to assessment target on patients; and if he will make a statement.; [159234]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the impact of the removal of ring-fenced funding for the NHS hearing aid services on patients; and if he will make a statement; [159235]

(3) what safeguards are in place to ensure that the contracting-out of audiology services to the private sector does not damage NHS services; and if he will make a statement; [159236]

(4) what *(a)* financial analysis, *(b)* review of current audiology services and *(c)* evidence was used when writing his Department's audiology plan; [159237]

(5) how follow-up care will be provided for those using the independent sector for NHS audiology treatment; how such patients will be assessed; how the quality of *(a)* service and *(b)* the hearing aids dispensed to such patients will be monitored; and if he will make a statement. [159238]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: There has been no change to the position in relation to audiology services and the 18 week target.

The most complex audiology cases, those properly referred to Ear Nose and Throat Departments for surgical or medical consultant-led care, will be covered by the target of treatment within 18 weeks of referral by December 2008. The remaining routine adult hearing loss cases are not included in the 18 weeks target and should be assessed within six weeks by March 2008. This is in line with the diagnostic waiting time milestone on which local commissioning plans are based.

No assessment has been made of changes to the funding mechanism for national health service hearing aid services. Funding of £125 million over the five years of the Modernising Hearing Aid Services programme was made available to enable services to modernise the way that they operated and routinely fit digital hearing aids.

Current funding for audiology services, along with the majority of other services, is provided through the general allocations to national health service trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs). It is the responsibility of local health organisations to allocate resources to audiology services based on their knowledge of the needs of their local populations and the resources available.

The Department developed the national framework for audiology "Improving Access to Audiology Services in England", published in March 2007 using views and evidence from a wide range of stakeholders. A copy is available in the Library. Nine development sites were also used to develop good practice aimed at improving access to audiology services through commissioning, service redesign, choice, information and incentives.

As set out in "Improving Access to Audiology in England", additional capacity is needed to address long waiting times for some audiology services. PCTs are responsible for commissioning the full range of health services for their local populations including audiology and for ensuring that they meet their capacity needs through improving existing NHS.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he intends to publish referral-to-treatment waiting times for non-admitted patients. [160199]

Mr. Bradshaw: Collection of referral to treatment data for non-admitted patients has been mandatory since April 2007 and is due to be published in the autumn.

Macular Degeneration

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will provide match funding for the London Project's research into dry macular degeneration. [160298]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department's National Institute for Health Research has this year awarded £14 million over five years to fund a Specialist Biomedical Research Centre at Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. The award supports five research themes. One of these is concerned with age-related macular degeneration and incorporates the privately sponsored London Project.

Mentally Ill: Deaths

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many inpatients died in NHS mental health accommodation in each of the last five years for which figures are available; [159138]

(2) what mechanisms are in place *(a)* to record and *(b)* to publish the cause of death of inpatients who die in NHS mental health accommodation. [159139]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the total number of in-patient deaths in national health service mental health accommodation in England from 2001-02 to 2005-06 is shown in the following table.

Total number of discharge episodes ending in the death of in-patients in NHS acute hospital and NHS mental health accommodation in England from 2001-02 to 2005-06: finished consultant episodes, male and female combined, all ages, all regions[1]

	Number
2001-02	2,970
2002-03	2,920
2003-04	2,660
2004-05	2,490
2005-06	1,980

[1] Totals include deaths from all causes

Note:
Ungrossed data: the figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data.

Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics, the Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

Data on in-patient deaths which are due to suicide, homicide and sudden, unexpected causes is published by the National Confidential Inquiry into Suicide and Homicide by People with Mental Illness (NCISH) based at the University of Manchester. NCISH is funded by the National Patient Safety Agency and published its report, 'Avoidable Deaths', in December 2006. It covers data on homicides in England and Wales from April 1999 to December 2003 and on suicides from April 2000 to December 2004.

The data on homicides is collected from the Home Office Homicide Index (HI). Where available, psychiatric reports prepared for the trial are obtained. Information on previous offences is collected from the National Crime Operations Faculty. Case details are submitted to mental health services in each individual's district of residence and adjacent districts to identify those with a history of using mental health services, including those with a lifetime contact. These individuals become inquiry cases and those cases with recent service contact (within 12 months of the offence) are analysed as the main sample.

Information on inquiry cases is obtained from a questionnaire sent to the consultant psychiatrist within the applicable clinical team. For all homicide convictions, data are collected on methods and victims from the HI, including data on diminished responsibility and hospital orders. Data on mental illness at the time of offence comes from psychiatric reports prepared for the Crown Prosecution Service, including details of mental health, drug and alcohol use at the time of the offence. The questionnaire also provides data covering demographic details, clinical history, details of the homicide, details of in-patient/community care received, details of final contact with services, events leading to the homicide and respondents' views on prevention.

The Mental Health Act Commission (MHAC) collects data on all detained patient deaths and publishes data on those from non-natural causes in its biennial report. MHAC, under its general remit to keep under review the operation of the Mental Health Act 1983, asks providers to notify it of all deaths of detained patients within three working days.

MHAC reviews the deaths of patients who have died from non-natural causes to establish whether good practice, as defined in the 'Mental Health Act 1983 Code of Practice', has been followed and whether lessons for future practice and policy need to be learned. This review may include sending a Commissioner to the inquest, which considers the circumstances of the death or arranging a visit to the hospital to consider the issues arising.

Midwives: Manpower

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate his Department has made of the number of midwives that will be needed in *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2009, *(c)* 2010 and *(d)* 2011; [159723]

(2) how many full-time equivalent midwives entered the NHS in each year since 1997. [159725]

Mr. Bradshaw: Work force planning is a matter for local determination as local work force planners are best placed to asses their local midwifery needs for their local population.

There are sufficient new midwives being trained to increase the midwifery work force by over 1,000 leading up to 2009. In addition to this planned increase, local organisations are reviewing their work force capacity in line with the 2007-08 Operating Framework, and may identify the need to invest in their maternity services and increase staffing capacity.

'Maternity Matters' takes account of staffing levels up to 2009. No further assessments have been made centrally.

The Department does not collect information centrally on 'new joiners' in the national health service each year. The census however collects information on the number of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff in post

as at 30 September each year. This information is shown in the following table. The number of FTE midwives has increased by 809 or 5 per cent. since 1997.

FTE number of midwives employed in the NHS as at 30 September each year, England

	FTE
1997	18,053
1998	18,168
1999	17,876
2000	17,662
2001	18,048
2002	18,119
2003	18,444
2004	18,854
2005	18,949
2006[1]	18,862

[1] 286 duplicate records were identified and removed.
Source:
Department of Health Non-Medical Workforce Census

NHS Direct

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which team in his Department has lead responsibility for the work of NHS Direct. [159963]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Service Design Division, within the Commissioning and System Management Directorate, has lead responsibility for the work of NHS Direct. The officials in this division work closely with colleagues across the Department given the cross-cutting nature of NHS Direct's work.

NHS: Doctors

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* first finished consultant episodes and *(b)* finished consultant episodes there were in the NHS in each year since 1990-91. [158467]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows the number of first finished consultant episodes (FFCEs) in each year since 1996-97 and the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) since 1990-91. Data on the number of FFCEs is not available prior to 1996-97. FFCE data is collected for general and acute specialties which do not include mental health, learning difficulties or maternity services. To enable comparison, FCE data has been supplied for general and acute, and the total for all specialties.

FCEs, England, 1990-91 to 2006-07

	Commissioner-based	Provider-based	
	FFCEs general and acute only[1, 2, 4, 6]	FCEs general and acute only[3, 7]	FCEs all specialties[7]
1990-91	—	—	8,898,744
1991-92	—	—	9,091,323
1992-93	—	—	9,614,508
1993-94	—	—	10,097,884
1994-95	—	—	10,313,379
1995-96	—	—	10,923,489
1996-97	8,041,209	9,499,340	11,072,003
1997-98	8,261,092	9,969,619	11,532,895
1998-99	8,804,569	10,406,949	11,983,893
1999-2000	8,908,430	10,650,954	12,196,270
2000-01	9,077,189	10,740,791	12,264,676
2001-02	9,131,457	10,831,517	12,337,724
2002-03	9,408,120	11,187,854	12,712,153
2003-04	9,864,032	11,681,985	13,295,166
2004-05	10,204,097	11,961,873	13,706,450
2005-06	10,527,644	12,647,485	14,423,506
2006-07[5]	10,585,850	—	—

[1] Figures for years prior to 2006-07 have been rebased to allow direct comparison.
[2] General and acute specialities do not include mental health, learning difficulties or maternity services.
[3] General and acute main specialties defined as the following main specialty codes: 100-460, 502, 601, 620, 800-950.
[4] 1996-97 to 1999-2000 figures are from health authorities. With the abolition of health authorities, figures for 2001-02 and 2002-03 are based on returns from national health service trusts.
[5] Figures are subject to revision when final outturn figures are received.
Sources:
[6] Quarterly monitoring and monthly monitoring, Department of health.
[7] Hospital Episode Statistics, the Information Centre for health and social care.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the Programme Budgeting Atlases, referred to at http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Organisationpolicy/Financeandplanning/Programmebudgeting/DH_075743 are available only to NHSnet users; and if he will place the atlases on a publicly accessible website. [156807]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Programme Budgeting Atlases are only available to NHSnet users to ensure compliance with the National Statistics Code of Practice and the Protocol on Data Access and Confidentiality. This is to ensure that information that could potentially identify an individual is not disclosed to the general public.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he will publish the long-term plans for the 17 NHS trusts referred to in his Department's report NHS financial performance quarter four, published on 6 June 2007, as unable to service and repay loans over an acceptable period. [159944]

Mr. Bradshaw: Departmental officials have worked in partnership with strategic health authorities (SHAs) on a review process to identify long-term solutions for these 17 trusts. The results of this recently completed review process are now being discussed with the SHAs and solutions are being prepared in the context of the Operating Framework for 2008-09.

NHS: Manpower

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to record the number of bank and agency staff employed by the NHS and publish data on an annual basis. [158537]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Information Centre collects and publishes census data annually. The number of bank staff employed in the national health service is drawn from this data using the Non-Medical Workforce Census.

The Department does not record the number of agency staff the NHS employs, but does record how much it spends. This data is collected annually via the trusts financial returns. The National Audit Office report "Improving the use of temporary nursing staff in NHS acute and foundation trusts" published in June 2006 acknowledged that year-on-year the NHS is getting better value for money and improving quality.

NHS: Per Capita Costs

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the per capita Government funding provision was for health services in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West and *(c)* England in each year since 1979. [156314]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not hold information centrally, either in total or per head of population, on funding across the whole of Government for health services. However, the following table shows the revenue resource limits (RRLs), expressed on a per capita basis, allocated by the Department for: Cornwall, the South West strategic health authority area and England. RRLs are limits set by the Department to control revenue expenditure in strategic health authorities (SHAs) and primary care trusts (PCTs). This information is given for the years 2000-01 to 2006-07, which are the only years for which these data are available by individual health body. The RRLs used are those for all relevant health authorities, SHAs, and PCTs; they take account of any adjustments made to the initial allocations to PCTs, including topslice and clawback, throughout each year.

			£ per head
	Cornwall	*South West*	*England*
2000-01	733.84	714.74	754.12
2001-02	807.80	792.33	828.29
2002-03	928.48	909.38	959.39
2003-04	959.75	1,013.80	1,075.42
2004-05	1,138.52	1,153.01	1,228.80
2005-06	1,273.76	1,255.54	1,325.87
2006-07	1,310.18	1,316.74	1,397.55

Notes:
1. Figures for Cornwall 2000-01 to 2001-02. Data are shown for the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly health authority and for PCTs in existence in those years.
2. Figures for Cornwall 2002-03 to 2006-07. Data shown include that for the PCTs in Cornwall. It is not possible to calculate SHA expenditure for Cornwall specifically as the amount of expenditure directly applicable cannot be identified, so an estimate (based on the RRLs and population of the SHAs in the South West) is also included to make up the expenditure shown.
3. Figures for the 'South West' are for the area covered by the current South West SHA. They include, as applicable, all information for primary care trusts, predecessor strategic health authorities and predecessor health authorities within this area.
4. The figures represent expenditure by the particular commissioners within the areas specified. This does not include all health related expenditure as pharmaceutical services and most general dental services expenditure is not accounted for by commissioners.

Sources:
1. Audited health authority summarisation forms 2000-01 to 2001-02.
2. Audited SHA summarisation forms 2002-03 to 2006-07.
3. Audited PCT summarisation schedules 2000-01 to 2006-07.
4. Unweighted population figures.

NHS: Private Sector

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS bodies have been unable to reach local resolutions between themselves and independent providers of NHS services, as referred to on page 5 of his Department's report Who Pays? Establishing the Responsible Commissioner published on 18th September 2007. [159942]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not received any notification of instances where an national health service body has been unable to reach a local resolution between itself and an independent provider of NHS services, as referred to on page 5 of the Department's report 'Who Pays? Establishing the Responsible Commissioner' published on 18 September 2007.

Nurses: Manpower

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses per 100 beds there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* the West Suffolk hospital and *(c)* Ipswich hospital in each year since 1997. [159223]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is shown in the following table.

National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff per 100 beds[1] in England and each specified organisation as at 30 September each specified year[2]

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
England	150	154	160	163	171	180	189	197	206	211

National health service hospital and community health services: Qualified nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff per 100 beds[1] in England and each specified organisation as at 30 September each specified year[2]

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Of which:										
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	93	87	103	101	117	128	140	150	160	170
Ipswich Hospitals NHS Trust	124	135	188	139	153	156	157	167	167	165

[1] Average daily number of available beds, all ward types. Ward classifications on KH03. Wards open overnight; Intensive care: neonates, intensive care: paediatric, intensive care: wholly or mainly adult, terminally ill / palliative care: wholly or mainly adult, younger physically disabled; Other general and acute: neonates and children, other general and acute: elderly: normal care; Other general and acute: elderly: limited care, other general and acute: other, maternity; Mental illness: children: short stay, mental illness: children: long stay, mental illness: elderly: short stay, mental illness: elderly: long stay, mental illness: other ages: secure unit, mental illness: other ages: short stay, mental illness: other ages: long stay.
Learning disabilities, : children: short stay, learning disabilities, : children: long stay, learning disabilities, : other ages: secure unit, learning disabilities, : other ages: short stay, learning disabilities, : other ages: long stay, wards open day only: Neonates and children, Other ages.
[2] Beds figures are for the financial year.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care. Non-Medical Workforce Census. Department of Health form KH03.

Nurses: Schools

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what records his Department holds on the number of practising school nurses employed in England in each year since 1997. [159724]

Mr. Bradshaw: The annual national health service workforce census collected accurate information on the number of school nurses for the first time in 2004 The number of school nurses from 2004-06 is shown in the table.

The 2006 census showed there were 2,968 qualified nurses in the school nursing area of work, an increase of 559 or 23.2 per cent. since 2004. Of these there were 1,129 school nurses with a post registration school nurse qualification. This is an increase of 273 or 31.89 per cent. since 2004.

School nurse numbers—England

	2004	2005	2006[1]	Increase 2004-06	Headcount Percentage increase since 2004
School Nursing Service Nurses	2,409	2,887	2,968	559	23.20
Of which:					
Nurses with a post registration school nursing qualification	856	943	1,129	273	31.89
Full- time equivalent					
School Nursing Service Nurses	1,619	1,913	2,053	433	26.76
Of which:					
Nurses with a post registration school nursing qualification	607	665	815	208	34.31

[1] More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total workforce figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.
Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care. Non-Medical Workforce Census, General and Personal Medical Services Statistics.

Palm Oil

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions he has had on the substituting of trans-fats with sustainable palm oil; and if he will make a statement; [159352]

(2) what discussions he has had on the use of sustainable palm oil in UK food products; and if he will make a statement; [159353]

(3) what measures he plans to take to encourage the use of palm oil derived from sustainable sources in food products; and if he will make a statement. [159354]

Dawn Primarolo: The Secretary of State (Alan Johnson) has asked the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to conduct an immediate investigation into the use of trans-fats, to examine whether there is more we should ask the food industry to do in this area.

The FSA is in discussion with food businesses about the reformulation of their products to improve the nutrition content. As part of these discussions, the potential role of palm oil as a substitute for hydrogenated vegetable oils in some foods has been highlighted.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will make it his policy to grant free prescriptions for *(a)* all people with long-term illnesses and *(b)* those with asthma; and if he will make a statement; [159895]

(2) for which long-term illnesses people are entitled to free prescriptions; and what criteria are used to determine to which illnesses the provision applies; [159896]

Dawn Primarolo: The medical conditions for which people are entitled to free prescriptions if they hold a valid medical exemption certificate are:

permanent fistula (including caecostomy, colostomy, laryngostomy, or ileostomy) which requires continuous surgical dressing or requires an appliance;

forms of hypoadrenalism (including Addison's disease) for which specific substitution therapy is essential;

diabetes insipidus or other forms of hypopituitarism;

diabetes mellitus (except where treatment of the diabetes is by diet alone);

hypoparathyroidism;

myasthenia gravis;

myxoedema (that is, hypothyroidism requiring thyroid hormone replacement);

epilepsy requiring continuous anti-convulsive therapy; and

continuing physical disability which prevents the patient from leaving their residence without the help of another person.

This list was introduced in 1968 after being agreed in discussion with the medical profession.

The Government will be inviting views later this autumn on options for changes to prescription charges that are cost neutral to the national health service.

Primary Care Trusts: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he will publish his Department's revenue allocations to each primary care trust for the years *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [158473]

Mr. Bradshaw: No decisions have yet been made about the timing of revenue allocations to primary care trusts for 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Smoking

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many smoking cessation clinics there are in *(a)* the five most deprived areas in England and *(b)* England; and whether the Government have targets to increase the number of smoking cessation clinics in either category over the next two years. [159731]

Dawn Primarolo: There are 62 primary care trusts (PCTs) in spearhead areas, each of which provides a National Health Service Stop Smoking Service for its local population. NHS Stop Smoking Services provide support in a variety of settings, including pharmacies, in primary care and in other settings such as prisons. Within all PCT areas in England, there will usually be a choice of support options and a number of delivery venues, thus improving choice and access for smokers wanting support to quit.

The Government do not have specific targets to increase the number of particular stop smoking clinics over the next two years, but encourages the NHS to extend the support offered and promote access to more smokers wherever possible.

The Government continue to work to promote the support provided by NHS Stop Smoking Services via national campaigns. Smokers who quit with the support of the NHS are up to four times more likely to succeed compared with will-power alone.

Smoking: Sandwell

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the prevalence of smoking among adults in each ward in the Borough of Sandwell. [159465]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimated prevalence of smoking among adults aged 16 and over, along with associated confidence intervals are provided for the wards in the Sandwell local authority. These estimates are taken from the Synthetic Estimates of Healthy Lifestyle Behaviours and are published on the Neighbourhood Statistics website, available at:

www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/Download1.do

These estimates are for the combined years 2000-02 and are shown in the following table.

Estimated prevalence of smoking among adults, by ward in the Sandwell local authority area, 2000-02

Percentage

	Estimated prevalence of smoking	*95 per cent. lower confidence interval*	*95 per cent. upper confidence interval*	*Comparison of estimated prevalence for smoking with national estimate[1]*
Abbey	28.9	17.9	43.1	2
Blackheath	33.1	20.9	48.1	2
Bristnall	32.6	20.6	47.4	2
Charlemont	26.7	16.2	40.6	2
Cradley Heath and Old Hill	29.5	18.3	43.9	2
Friar Park	38.9	25.4	54.4	2
Great Barr	24.6	14.9	37.7	2
Great Bridge	35.2	22.5	50.3	2
Greets Green and Lyng	33.0	20.8	48.1	2
Hateley Heath	35.6	22.8	50.8	2
Langley	27.9	17.2	42.1	2
Newton	26.1	15.8	39.8	2
Oldbury	30.4	18.9	45.0	2
Old Warley	26.2	15.9	39.9	2
Princes End	38.9	25.3	54.5	2
Rowley	31.7	19.9	46.5	2

Estimated prevalence of smoking among adults, by ward in the Sandwell local authority area, 2000-02

	Estimated prevalence of smoking	*95 per cent. lower confidence interval*	*95 per cent. upper confidence interval*	*Percentage* *Comparison of estimated prevalence for smoking with national estimate*[1]
St. Pauls	26.2	15.7	40.2	2
Smethwick	28.9	17.7	43.2	2
Soho and Victoria	36.2	23.1	51.7	2
Tipton Green	31.0	19.5	45.8	2
Tividale	28.8	17.8	43.0	2
Wednesbury North	29.9	18.6	44.4	2
Wednesbury South	31.3	19.5	45.9	2
West Bromwich Central	28.1	17.1	42.5	2

[1] It should be noted that the scores for comparing the synthetic estimate to the national estimate relate to the data as follows: 1=CI significantly below NE, 2=overlapping, 3=CI significantly above NE. The national estimate is derived directly from the Health Surveys for England 2000-02 (with associated Confidence Intervals) and therefore is not a model-based estimate.

Source:
Synthetic Estimates of Healthy Lifestyle Behaviours at ward level, 2000-02. Neighbourhood Statistics, Office for National Statistics (ONS)

JUSTICE

Courts: Interpreters

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many interpreters in *(a)* Lithuanian, *(b)* Czech, *(c)* Polish, *(d)* Bulgarian, *(e)* Estonian, *(f)* Arabic, *(g)* Hungarian, *(h)* Romanian and *(i)* Slovakian were employed (i) full and (ii) part time in the criminal courts or doing associated work in (A) the Greater London area and (B) England and Wales in each of the last five years; [160301]

(2) what the annual cost was of *(a)* full and *(b)* part time interpreters in criminal cases or associated work in (i) the Greater London area and (ii) England and Wales in each of the last five years; [160302]

(3) which four languages required the most interpreters in courts in *(a)* the Greater London area and *(b)* England and Wales in the last five years for which figures are available; [160303]

(4) how many *(a)* full and *(b)* part time interpreters were employed for court work or associated matters in (i) the Greater London area and (ii) England and Wales in each of the last five years. [160304]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is not collected centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost through the manual searching of individual court files. Her Majesty's Courts Service is giving consideration to the routine collection of data relating to interpreting and translation services used in court.

Crimes of Violence: Young People

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females aged (i) 11 to 13 years, (ii) 14 to 16 years and (iii) under 18 years were arrested for violence against another person aged under 18 years in each of the last two years for which information is available; and how many persons in each age group received (A) a caution, (B) detention in a young offender institution and (C) an acquittal in each of those two years. [159651]

Mr. Hanson: The arrests collection held by my Department provides data only on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) by age group, sex, ethnicity and main offence group. Aggregated data, collected centrally from the 43 police force areas in England and Wales, do not record the age details of the victim of a crime for which an offender is arrested. The available information is given in table A.

Detention in a young offenders institution is applicable only to persons aged 18 to 20. Detention and training orders are available as are sentences for detention of juveniles for murder and certain other serious crimes and detention for public protection/extended sentences. These are shown in table B for all indictable offences of violence against the person, by sex and the age groups requested, together with persons aged 10, and a total of all persons aged under 18.

The number of males and females aged 10, 11 to 13 years, 14 to 16 years and under 18 who have received a reprimand or final warning for violence against the person offences, in England and Wales, 2004 and 2005 is shown in the following table. The section of the Crime and Disorder Act that removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings came into force nationally on 1 June 2000.

The number of males and females aged 10, 11 to 13 years, 14 to 16 years and under 18 whose charges were dismissed in the magistrates courts or who were acquitted in the crown courts for violence against the person offences in England and Wales in 2004 and 2005 is also shown in the table.

My Department is not able to determine the age of the victim; the data supplied are for victims of all ages.

Table A: The number of juveniles (aged 10 to 17) arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) within the offence group of violence against the person, by sex and period, England and Wales

	Male	*Female*	*Total*
2003-04	48,500	15,100	63,600
2004-05	57,200	19,400	76,600

Note:
Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:
RDS-OCJR, Ministry of Justice.

Table B: Juveniles sentenced[1] to immediate custody for offences of violence against the person, England and Wales, 2004 and 2005

Agelage group	Sex	Detention and training order 2004	Detention and training order 2005	S90-92 PCC(S) Act 2000[2] 2004	S90-92 PCC(S) Act 2000[2] 2005	Detention for public protection/extended sentence[3] 2004	Detention for public protection/extended sentence[3] 2005	Total immediate custody 2004	Total immediate custody 2005
Age 10	Male	—	—	—	2	*	1	—	3
	Female	—	—	—	1	*	—	—	1
	Total	—	—	—	3	*	1	—	4
Age 11 to 13	Male	11	12	—	—	*	—	11	12
	Female	3	6	—	—	*	—	3	6
	Total	14	18	—	—	*	—	14	18
Age 14 to 16	Male	348	368	56	56	*	7	404	431
	Female	59	59	6	9	*	3	65	71
	Total	407	427	62	65	*	10	469	502
Age 17	Male	364	391	78	63	*	14	442	468
	Female	32	36	2	6	*	3	34	45
	Total	396	427	80	69	*	17	476	513
All juveniles	Male	723	771	134	121	*	22	857	914
	Female	94	101	8	16	*	6	102	123
	Total	817	872	142	137	*	28	959	1,037

[1] Principal offence basis.
[2] Detention of juveniles for murder and certain other serious crimes under the Powers of Criminal Courts (Sentencing) Act 2000.
[3] Under sections 226 and 228 of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 (came into force in April 2005).

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:
RDS-NOMS.

Table C: Number of reprimands and final warnings issued to males and females aged 10 to 17 for violence against the person offences, and the number whose charge was dismissed at the magistrates court and acquitted at the Crown court in England and Wales, 2004 and 2005[1, 2, 3]

Age and Sex	2004 Reprimands and final warnings[3]	2004 Charge dismissed	2004 Acquitted	2005 Reprimands and final warnings[3]	2005 Charge dismissed	2005 Acquitted
Male						
10	162	0	1	210	1	0
11 to 13	2,336	37	8	2,961	23	6
14 to 16	5,782	269	98	6,785	302	88
17	1,590	163	109	1,773	187	98
Total under 18	9,870	469	216	11,729	513	192
Female						
10	23	0	0	19	0	1
11 to 13	868	2	2	1,156	3	3
14 to 16	2,412	59	26	3,060	56	21
17	444	24	10	580	15	11
Total under 18	3,747	85	38	4,815	74	36
Male and Female						
10	185	0	1	229	1	1
11 to 13	3,204	39	10	4,117	26	9
14 to 16	8,194	328	124	9,845	358	109
17	2,034	187	119	2,353	202	109
Total under 18	13,617	554	254	16,544	587	228

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.
[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[3] The section of the Crime and Disorder Act that removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings came into force nationally from 1 June 2000. The data provided in the above table are for reprimands and final warnings, as simple cautions can no longer be issued to people under 18.

Source:
RDS-OCJR, Ministry of Justice.

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many auditors are employed within the internal audit department of his Department; and if he will make a statement. [159438]

Maria Eagle: There are 64 full and part-time auditors employed in the Ministry of Justice (62.15 full-time equivalent posts).

These have responsibility for MoJ Central, HM Courts Service, Tribunals Service, Office of the Public Guardian, National Offenders Management Service, Youth Justice Board, Office of Criminal Justice Reform, Wales Office, Scotland Office, Judicial Appointments Commission and other offices within the MoJ family.

They do not cover the Legal Services Commission or HM Prison Service, which have their own separate audit units. The LSC employs eight internal auditors and HMPS 16 internal auditors.

Departments: Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many citizens' juries were arranged by his Department since June 2007; which organisations have been commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the estimated cost is of each exercise. [159506]

Mr. Wills: My Department has not arranged any citizens' juries since June 2007.

Parole

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were detained as a consequence of breaching release licensing conditions at each prison establishment in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [159439]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the numbers of prisoners detained as a consequence of breaching their licensing conditions by prison establishment in England and Wales can be found in the following table.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Recall prison population by month, from August 2006 to August 2007, by establishment[1]

	Recall population by establishment[1]												
	2006					*2007*							
	Aug	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*
Total recall population	4,313	4,411	4,550	4,724	4,711	4,963	4,974	4,930	5,027	5,104	5,105	5,253	5,317
Altcourse	69	70	69	73	65	73	78	71	77	82	79	96	106
Acklington	83	81	75	85	87	97	105	101	102	114	112	117	126
Bristol	56	61	69	68	75	80	73	70	67	73	83	73	74
Birmingham	158	152	140	137	132	137	135	125	132	143	148	174	153
Bullingdon	67	72	71	83	80	80	69	69	71	76	71	72	73
Blakenhurst	86	81	85	90	80	84	80	83	77	80	80	80	94
Channings Wood	55	52	57	54	62	64	67	73	66	71	60	59	63
Dartmoor	66	62	64	67	68	79	75	70	70	77	78	77	81
Durham	75	84	102	92	84	98	92	103	103	126	116	118	100
Doncaster	95	115	120	115	129	133	132	113	109	107	99	105	98
Elmley	69	66	64	69	66	68	67	66	75	77	69	78	86
Forest Bank	115	133	129	121	126	130	129	126	126	133	131	169	138
Holme House	74	67	82	87	82	93	100	95	101	96	93	101	101
Hull	101	114	102	107	113	122	115	101	101	123	120	125	114
Leeds	122	129	125	138	118	116	99	106	116	117	106	115	125
Lincoln	65	61	55	59	55	50	74	60	70	87	107	133	118
Liverpool	91	89	99	92	113	105	100	101	116	123	120	117	115
Littlehey	71	71	71	67	68	70	71	71	62	61	63	66	70
Manchester	82	87	84	69	61	74	96	100	108	105	97	90	104
Nottingham	68	62	63	71	82	67	61	65	51	78	84	88	83
Preston	51	54	51	72	74	72	79	63	59	59	58	61	61
Parc	88	79	74	87	85	90	90	95	87	99	95	101	89
Ranby	74	68	74	74	69	77	78	86	87	90	88	75	76
Risley	53	54	63	69	78	82	80	86	86	88	83	81	82
Stafford	63	61	62	65	68	73	75	76	76	79	79	79	82
Wymott	64	67	80	80	89	92	91	94	101	105	109	114	112
Wormwood Scrubs	65	80	65	64	62	64	61	61	82	83	71	61	67
Whatton	87	89	99	103	106	109	101	98	95	97	106	104	106
Wandsworth	78	67	62	65	73	88	87	87	80	104	99	106	110

[1] Total recall population includes all establishments however the breakdown only includes those establishments with 50 or more recallees in each month.

Police Custody: Wales

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for how much *(a)* South Wales police, *(b)* Gwent police, *(c)* Dyfed Powys police and *(d)* North Wales police have invoiced his Department to cover costs incurred under Operation Safeguard since 31 March; what the dates of those invoices were; and if he will make a statement. [158976]

Mr. Hanson: The following table provides the dates covered and amounts paid in respect of invoices submitted by Gwent and Dyfed Powys police forces to cover costs incurred under Operation Safeguard since 31 March. We have not received any invoices from South Wales or North Wales police forces since 31 March 2007.

Police force	*Dates covered*	*Total*
Gwent	25 June to 30 June 2007	11,906
Dyfed Powys	14 May to 31 May 2007	298,663
	1 June to 30 June 2007	
	1 April to 14 May 2007	
	1 July to 23 July 2007	

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many places are planned to become available at each prison establishment through the opening of *(a)* existing, but non-functional, and *(b)* new wings; and if he will make a statement. [159437]

Mr. Hanson: There is a planned rolling programme of refurbishment of accommodation across the prison estate. This allows the critical maintenance of the estate to be undertaken whilst having no significant net change on the number of places in use.

Over 1,100 new prison places have been delivered this year to date. This includes the conversion of a former secure hospital to a prison, Kennet, and expansions at the following prisons:

Lowdham Grange
Featherstone
Garth
Channings Wood
Altcourse
The Mount
Stocken

Planning permission has been granted for around 4,300 places at the following sites:

Acklington
Belmarsh East (new cluster prison on existing Belmarsh site)
Brinsford
Bullingdon
Coldingley
Dovegate
Haverigg
Highdown
Hindley
Lewes
Lindholme
Long Lartin
Maghull (new prison in Merseyside)
Nottingham
Parc
Portland
Rochester

The locations of the remaining places to be delivered as part of the new capacity building programmes are still subject to final decisions.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cells in the prison estate are not in use; and if he will make a statement. [159711]

Mr. Hanson: At the end of September there were 1,650 places out of use in the prison estate to allow critical maintenance to be undertaken. These places may be located in single cells, double cells or shared rooms. This information is published monthly on the Prison Service website.

Prison Accommodation: Wales

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 12 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2095W, on prison accommodation: Wales, if he will list the potential sites in Wales which are being investigated as possible sites for new prison development. [160158]

Mr. Hanson: The publication of potential sites at this stage of the process would lead to unnecessary speculation as most will eventually be discounted once the investigations have been completed. A shortlist of sites will be published once all of the site investigations have been assessed.

Prison Service: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff are suspended from duty within HM Prison Service; what estimate he has made of the cost of these suspensions; and if he will make a statement. [159433]

Mr. Hanson: The public sector Prison Service does not currently hold detailed central records of all staff suspensions. This information is recorded at a local level. The Service does, however, monitor suspensions which have exceeded three months' duration and has done so since March 2006.

Detailed records of all suspensions could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the longest period is for which a member of staff of HM Prison Service has been suspended *(a)* at the current time and *(b)* at any time; what the estimated cost is of such suspensions; and if he will make a statement. [159435]

Mr. Hanson: In the public sector Prison Service, details of long-term suspensions have only been collated centrally since March 2006. Establishments and groups submit records of long term suspensions to

headquarters on a monthly basis. According to September's records, the longest period for which a member of staff has been suspended at the current time is 518 days. In this particular case, the internal investigation was delayed pending the outcome of criminal proceedings. The estimated salary cost associated with this suspension is £45,000.

Historical data are not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Prison Service: Pay

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much was spent on special bonus payments to staff in the Prison Service between 1 April and 30 September; [159681]

(2) which Prison Service workplaces made special bonus payments to staff between 1 April and 30 September; how many staff at each workplace of each *(a)* sex, *(b)* grade and *(c)* ethnicity received payments; and what the nature was of the work undertaken to attract each payment. [159686]

Mr. Hanson: Figures for the current financial year are not available. However, the data requested that relate to last year are shown in the following tables. The specific reason for each award is not recorded.

The total amount spent by the public sector Prison Service on special bonuses between 1 April and 30 September 2006 was £293,000.

Establishments recording special bonuses—1 April to 30 September 2006

	Staff receiving a special bonus[1]		
Establishment	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Acklington	—	1	1
Aylesbury	5	9	14
Bedford	13	1	14
Belmarsh	15	55	70
Birmingham	5	2	7
Blundeston	1	—	1
Buckley Hall[2]	—	—	—
Bullingdon	8	4	12
Bullwood Hall	2	—	2
Camp Hill	—	1	1
Castington	1	2	3
Channings Wood	3	1	4
Chelmsford	3	3	6
Coldingley	—	1	1
Dartmoor	29	8	37
Deerbolt	1	4	5
Dorchester	1	1	2
Durham	3	1	4
Eastwood Park	7	20	27
Erlestoke	2	2	4
Everthorpe	11	12	23
Featherstone	1	—	1
Feltham	12	2	14
Frankland	5	2	7
Full Sutton	1	—	1
Garth	2	2	4
Gartree	1	2	3
Gloucester	—	1	1
Grendon	6	4	10
Haverigg	2	1	3
Hewell Grange	—	2	2
Hindley	8	8	16
Holloway	20	11	31
Holme House	1	1	2
HQ and area offices	28	40	68
Hull	—	1	1
Huntercombe	38	19	57
Kennet	1	1	2
Lancaster	9	7	16
Lancaster Farms	1	—	1
Leyhill	3	5	8
Lincoln	9	13	22
Lindholme	1	—	1
Liverpool	—	1	1
Long Lartin	1	5	6
Low Newton	1	—	1
Maidstone	—	1	1
Moorland	4	2	6
Morton Hall	2	—	2
North Sea Camp	1	—	1
Northallerton	—	1	1
Norwich	5	5	10
Nottingham	33	13	46
Preston	1	1	2
Ranby[2]	—	—	—
Reading	19	16	35
Risley	1	—	1
Shepton Mallet	1	1	2
Standford Hill	1	—	1
Stocken	1	—	1
Styal	2	3	5
Sudbury	1	—	1
The Mount	11	3	14
The Verne	2	—	2
Thorn Cross	4	—	4
Usk/Prescoed	5	—	5
Wakefield	3	1	4
Wandsworth	1	—	1
Warren Hill	1	1	2
Wealstun	1	—	1
Werrington	—	1	1
Whatton	12	5	17
Winchester	6	3	9
Woodhill	3	—	3
Wormwood Scrubs	10	6	16
Wymott	18	9	27
Total	410	328	738

[1] Recording problems are known to exist whereby some payments to staff are incorrectly coded as special bonuses.
[2] Reliable information on the number of payments is not available for these sites.

Prison Service: Vacancies

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice by how many staff each prison establishment is short of full staffing levels; and if he will make a statement. [159436]

Mr. Hanson: Information on how many staff of all grades each establishment was short of its staffing requirement on 30 September 2007 is shown in the table. However, the emphasis within the Prison Service is on operational staffing where the overall shortfall is 1.5 per cent.

Public sector establishments

Prison name	*Shortfall from full staffing*[1] *Number*	*Percentage*
Acklington	0	0
Albany	3	1
Ashwell	15	5
Askham Grange	0	0
Aylesbury	23	7
Bedford	5	2
Belmarsh	48	5
Birmingham	49	6
Blakenhurst	14	3
Blantyre House	0	0
Blundeston	2	1
Brinsford	0	0
Bristol	0	0
Brixton	36	9
Brockhill	8	5
Buckley Hall	2	1
Bullingdon	17	3
Bullwood Hall	10	6
Camp Hill	0	0
Canterbury	12	6
Cardiff	7	2
Castington	9	2
Channings Wood	0	0
Chelmsford	17	4
Coldingley	1	0
Cookham Wood /ESP	14	6
Dartmoor	9	3
Deerbolt	0	0
Dorchester	14	7
Dover	0	0
Downview	18	7
Drake Hall	10	5
Durham	17	3
Eastwood Park	31	10
Edmunds Hill	9	4
Elmley	2	1
Erlestoke	21	9
Everthorpe	17	5
Exeter	9	3
Featherstone	17	5
Feltham	45	5
Ford	17	8
Foston Hall	26	8
Frankland	53	5
Full Sutton	0	0
Garth	16	3
Gartree	15	3
Glen Parva	22	4
Gloucester	11	5
Grendon	0	0
Guys Marsh	14	5
Haslar	7	6
Haverigg	19	5

Public sector establishments

Prison name	*Shortfall from full staffing*[1] *Number*	*Percentage*
Hewell Grange	0	0
High Down[2]	75	14
Highpoint	36	8
Hindley	5	1
Hollesley Bay	8	5
Holloway	45	8
Holme House	4	1
Hull	12	2
Huntercombe	4	1
Kennet[3]	74	24
Kingston	3	2
Kirkham	13	5
Kirklevington Grange	0	0
Lancaster	0	0
Lancaster Farms	12	3
Latchmere House[4]	12	13
Leeds	6	1
Leicester	8	3
Lewes	9	3
Leyhill	14	6
Lincoln	4	1
Lindholme	0	0
Littlehey	8	2
Liverpool	19	3
Long Lartin	0	0
Low Newton	3	1
Maidstone	28	8
Manchester	46	5
Moorland	4	1
Morton Hall	1	1
New Hall	0	0
North Sea Camp	5	4
Northallerton	1	1
Norwich	1	0
Nottingham	10	2
Onley	4	1
Parkhurst	8	2
Pentonville	21	3
Portland	0	0
Preston	0	0
Ranby	14	3
Reading	7	3
Risley	20	4
Rochester	0	0
Send	9	5
Shepton Mallet	5	3
Shrewsbury	3	2
Stafford	7	2
Standford Hill	21	10
Stocken	38	9
Stoke Heath	0	0
Styal	0	0
Sudbury	9	5
Swaleside	7	2
Swansea	15	5
Swinfen Hall	24	6
The Mount	15	4
The Verne	2	1
Thorn Cross	0	0
Usk/Prescoed	17	7
Wakefield	47	6

Public sector establishments

Prison name	Shortfall from full staffing[1] Number	Percentage
Wandsworth	48	7
Warren Hill	3	1
Wayland	0	0
Wealstun	9	2
Wellingborough	24	7
Werrington	10	6
Wetherby	9	3
Whatton	33	7
Whitemoor	67	8
Winchester	7	2
Woodhill	66	9
Wormwood Scrubs	19	3
Wymott	10	2

[1] Shortfall of staffing availability, including the contribution of officers working contracted supplementary hours against operational staffing requirement.
[2] Includes staffing requirement for new accommodation in the process of recruiting
[3] Newly opened prison, staff building up.
[4] Developing new staffing profile and in process of recruiting

Contracted Prisons

Prison (provider)	Shortfall as at 30 September 2007
Altcourse (GSL)	28
Ashfield (Serco)	9
Bronzefield (Kalyx)	0
Doncaster (Serco)	50
Dovegate (Serco)	46
Forest Bank (Kalyx)	15
Lowdham Grange (Serco)	28
Parc (G4S)	2
Peterborough (Kalyx)	10
Rye Hill (GSL)	5
Wolds (GSL)	1

Prisoners Transfers

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost of transferring a prisoner between prisons was in 2006-07; and if he will make a statement. [158968]

Mr. Hanson: The average cost of moving an individual prisoner between prisons in 2006-07 was £102.79 exclusive of VAT charges as recorded by the Inter-Prison Transfer contractor. However, there are a number of locally managed prisoner movements between prisons that do not have a centrally recorded cost.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were transferred between prisons during their sentence *(a)* in each of the last 12 months and *(b)* in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [158970]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the monthly number of prison to prison transfers of individual prisoners in England and Wales, recorded by the Inter-Prison Transfer contractor, in each financial year from 2002-03 to 2006-07.

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
April	6,178	5,558	5,799	5,567	5,071
May	6,322	5,929	5,323	5,639	5,957
June	5,163	6,053	6,153	6,078	6,152
July	6,629	6,851	5,918	5,617	5,927
August	6,317	6,148	5,547	5,978	6,487
September	5,969	6,417	6,223	5,950	6,461
October	6,358	6,721	5,456	5,838	6,396
November	6,090	5,705	6,080	5,909	6,193
December	4,542	4,720	4,879	4,612	4,988
January	5,644	6,319	5,737	5,824	6,484
February	5,610	5,757	5,851	5,744	5,596
March	6,322	6,568	5,674	5,674	6,100
Total	71,145	72,746	68,638	68,430	71,812

There are also a number of locally managed prisoner movements between prisons that are not reported centrally.

Prisoners: Exservicemen

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners *(a)* detained on remand and *(b)* serving a custodial sentence were previously members of the armed forces in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [159440]

Mr. Hanson: Data from nationally representative surveys of some 2,000 sentenced prisoners near release conducted in 2001, 2003 and 2004 show the proportion of prisoners who had previously served in the armed forces as 6 per cent., 4 per cent. and 5 per cent. respectively.

Reparation by Offenders

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the contribution that structured volunteering can make to restorative justice; and if he will make a statement. [160223]

Mr. Hanson: No specific, formal assessment has been made of the contribution that volunteering can make to restorative justice but we encourage partnership working in this area and many restorative justice schemes engage the services of the voluntary sector. For example, Youth Offending Panels are made up of trained volunteers from the local community and design intervention programmes for juveniles referred from youth courts. A number of voluntary sector providers are partners in schemes delivering adult restorative justice and there are local initiatives such as the Chard and Ilminster Community Justice Panel, which is made up of local, trained volunteers and uses restorative justice processes to deliver Acceptable Behaviour Contracts for cases involving minor offences that do not go to court.

The main restorative justice voluntary sector and practitioner organisations were among those who helped to develop "Best Practice Guidance for Restorative Justice Practitioners", which was published by the Home Office in December 2004 and now forms the basis of National Occupational Standards.

Statute Law: Reform

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what response he has made to the Law Commission's recommendations for reform of limitation periods; [159689]

(2) when he intends to publish a Bill containing provisions relating to reform of limitation periods. [159690]

Bridget Prentice: In July 2002, the Government accepted the Law Commission's recommendations to reform the law of limitation in principle, subject to further consideration of certain aspects. In January 2007, the Government announced their intention to consult in spring 2007 on the detailed content of a draft Bill to implement these recommendations.

It has not yet been possible to complete the detailed examination of the impact of the proposals. The Government will publish proposals for consultation as soon as possible after this work is complete. We expect this to be early in 2008.

Sudbury Prison: Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many inmates have absconded from Sudbury open prison since the beginning of the year; how many of these were convicted murderers; and what further steps he is taking to ensure that persons sent to prison remain in custody. [159660]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is being collated and I will write to the hon. Member as soon as it is available.

Young People: Speed Dating

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what organisation was commissioned to run the speed dating youth conference on 9 October 2007. [160250]

Bridget Prentice: Solent Peoples theatre was commissioned to run the political speed dating at "Your Voice Counts"—the Ministry of Justice's Youth conference on 9 October 2007.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Voluntary Work: Young People

22. **Andrew Miller:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps he is taking to increase opportunities for young people to undertake voluntary work. [159750]

27. **Helen Jones:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps he is taking to encourage more young people to volunteer. [159755]

Phil Hope: In May 2006 the youth volunteering charity v was launched with government funding. v has the lead in delivering quality, quantity and diversity of volunteering opportunities for young people aged 16-25 in England. To date, v has commissioned 200,000 youth volunteering opportunities for young people.

Social Exclusion

23. **Mr. Anthony Wright:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will take steps to ensure that the public service agreement for social exclusion supports socially excluded adults with mental health problems. [159751]

Gillian Merron: Helping more of the most excluded adults, including those with serious mental health problems, to obtain a job as well as a home is a key priority across Government through the Socially Excluded Adults public service agreement.

28. **Mr. Gordon Marsden:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent progress has been made on raising the aspirations of the most socially excluded adults. [159756]

Gillian Merron: The new social exclusion public service agreement and adults facing chronic exclusion pilots will help socially excluded adults get back onto the path to success and meet their aspirations by ensuring access to personalised services.

Community Organisations

24. **Anne Snelgrove:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what plans he has to support the work of small community organisations. [159752]

Phil Hope: Small community organisations are an essential part of a strong local voluntary sector and thriving communities. Support for their work is a key priority for the Government.

The Office of the Third Sector has created the £30 million Community Assets Fund which will to help community groups to take on the management or ownership of assets. It is also introducing a new £80 million programme of small grants for small community and voluntary organisations, and a £50 million programme of endowment grants to help local foundations to provide an enduring source of funding.

Voluntary Sector

25. **Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will make a statement on the role of voluntary sector organisations in the delivery of public services. [159753]

26. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will make a statement on the role of voluntary sector organisations in the delivery of public services. [159754]

Phil Hope: Voluntary organisations have an important role to play in the design, development and delivery of public services. Public services are able to improve further by fully drawing on the understanding, experience, innovation and flexibility of the third sector. The involvement of voluntary organisations is a key part of the Government's desire to transform the delivery of services.

30. **Mr. Hands:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Compact on relations between Government and the voluntary and community sector. [159759]

Phil Hope: Since this Government agreed the Compact with the sector in 1998, it has been assessed annually through a joint review meeting The review meeting reports on progress and agrees a joint action plan for the forthcoming year. This plan is signed off by both the government and the sector. Through the annual review meeting, consensus has been reached on further measures to strengthen the Compact such as the establishment of a Commission for the Compact in 2005. The Third Sector Review which was published in July 2007 renewed the commitment to the Compact and asked the Office of the Third Sector to work with the Commission and the sector in reviewing the Compact to further strengthen the partnership.

Social Enterprise

29. **Tom Levitt:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps the Government are taking to promote social enterprise. [159757]

Phil Hope: The Government set out its approach to supporting social enterprise in the Social Enterprise Action Plan, published on 16 November 2006. This includes a commitment to work closely with the sector to foster a culture of social enterprise, helping more people to understand social enterprise and raising awareness among potential social entrepreneurs, customers, investors and support providers. Three key elements of this work are:

Developing a programme, run by the sector, to support 25 social enterprise ambassadors to use their personal stories to raise the profile of social enterprise.

Supporting the Make Your Mark: Change Lives campaign to encourage young people to use enterprising ideas for social or environmental change. This includes Social Enterprise Day on 15 November which will see events taking place across the country.

Sponsoring the annual enterprising solutions awards which celebrate the achievements of the best social enterprises.

Departments: Aviation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 530W, on departments: aviation, how much was spent on non-ministerial flights in *(a)* first class and *(b)* business class in the last six months. [160034]

Edward Miliband: The information is only available at disproportionate cost.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code and the Civil Service Management Code.

Departments: Furniture

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent by the Cabinet Office on acquiring furniture in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [151263]

Gillian Merron: The available information on how much was spent by the Cabinet Office on acquiring furniture in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07 is shown in the table.

	£
2005-06	450,922
2006-07	292,111

A significant portion of the expenditure in 2005-06 was spent on replacing existing furniture to meet health and safety requirements.

Departments: Manpower

Andrew Selous: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what percentage of employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by his Department are above state retirement age. [158934]

Gillian Merron: The Cabinet Office currently has:

Six employees (0.4 per cent. of all staff) who are above the statutory retirement age of 65; and

22 employees (1.6 per cent. of all staff) who are above the state pension age of 65 for men and 60 for women.

The Cabinet Office does not have responsibility for or fund any executive agencies or non-departmental public bodies.

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will bring forward proposals to allow contractors employed by his Department to apply for internal job vacancies advertised within his Department; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [152987]

Gillian Merron: The Cabinet Office has not received any recent representations on this issue. Recruitment into the civil service is governed by the Civil Service Commissioners' Recruitment Code (the Code).

www.civilservicecommissioners.gov.uk

Internal vacancies are open only to serving civil servants and employees of those non departmental public bodies approved by the Civil Service Commissioners as having followed recruitment practices that are consistent with the code. There are currently no plans to amend the code in this regard.

Departments: Road Traffic Offences

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many fixed penalty tickets were incurred by vehicles within the purview of his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the total cost was. [157883]

Gillian Merron: The Cabinet Office only has one vehicle and has not had any fixed penalty tickets in the last year.

Other vehicles are provided by Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) and our facilities management (FM) provider. Our FM provider has had a total of two tickets in the last year. These were paid by the FM provider and there was no cost to the Cabinet Office. In respect of GCDA provided vehicles, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by Secretary of State for Transport on 18 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1185-86W.

Departments: Secondment

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff are seconded to the Cabinet Office from outside Government; from which outside body each has been seconded; and what the length is of each secondment. [157884]

Gillian Merron: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Secretary in the Leader of the House of Commons on 18 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1182W.

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent by his Department on staff away days in the last 12 months. [153284]

Gillian Merron: All Cabinet Office expenditure on away days is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Government Accounting and other HM Treasury guidance.

Details of how much the Cabinet Office spent on away days and communication training in the last 12 months is not held centrally and therefore this information is available only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent by his Department on *(a)* staff training and *(b)* communication training in the last 12 months. [153285]

Gillian Merron: The Department spent £2,137,000 on staff training during the 2006-07 financial year, which includes communication training.

The Cabinet Office is committed to staff training which addresses both the identified needs of staff to achieve continued development in line with Professional Skills for Government, and ensures value for money.

Devolution: Codes of Practice

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what discussions there were between Government Ministers and Ministers of devolved Administrations on the preparation of the Ministerial Codes of those Administrations. [159710]

Edward Miliband: Preparation of guidance documents for the devolved Administrations, including the Ministerial Codes of those Administrations, is a matter for the Administrations themselves.

Detail of Ministers' contact with their counterparts in the devolved Administrations is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. There has been no contact between Cabinet Office Ministers and Ministers in the devolved Administrations about the preparation of their Ministerial Codes.

Experience Corps

Greg Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the Experience Corps has paid any fees to the Government with regard to assets accumulated during or as a result of its period of grant funding by the Home Office. [156942]

Phil Hope: The Government provided funding to Experience Corps between 2001 and 2004. From the information available Experience Corps has not paid any fees to the Government with regard to assets accumulated during or as a result of its period of grant funding by the Home Office.

Since March 2004, the programme has continued to run independent of Government funding.

Government Communication Network

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library copies of the guidance documents the Government Communication Network has issued to staff in departments in the last three months. [159785]

Gillian Merron: The Government Communication Network (GCN) is a virtual organisation and does not issue guidance. The Government Communication team within Cabinet Office which supports the GCN has not issued any guidance to the network in the last three months.

National Lottery: Grants

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the National Lottery's Community Assets fund is in addition to the Community Buildings Programme. [158192]

Phil Hope: Community Assets is a programme of the Office of the Third Sector in the Cabinet Office, administered on its behalf by the Big Lottery Fund.

The Community Buildings Programme is a three-year £50 million programme being funded from lottery money. The Community Assets Programme is not funded through the lottery and is a completely separate fund.

Official Residences: Ministers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) which Ministers occupy the three official ministerial residences in Admiralty House; and on what date each moved in; [158680]

(2) which Minister occupies the ministerial office formerly occupied by the right hon. Member for Kingston-upon-Hull, East in 26 Whitehall. [158684]

Gillian Merron: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) and the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 17 October, *Official Report*, column 1135W.

Prime Minister: Civil Servants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many civil servants have moved from the Treasury to work in No. 10 or the Prime Minister's offices since May 2007. [159931]

Gillian Merron: No. 10 Downing street and the Prime Minister's offices are part of the Cabinet Office. A total of nine members of staff have joined the Cabinet Office from Her Majesty's Treasury since May 2007.

Voluntary Organisations

Helen Southworth: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance has been given to local authorities and primary care trusts on practical aspects of commissioning of services from the voluntary sector, particularly on *(a)* funding arrangements for a period longer than one financial year and *(b)* agreeing common reporting mechanisms where more than one public body is commissioning or funding a service. [160225]

Phil Hope: The pre-Budget report, published in December, established the expectation that three-year funding would be passed on to third sector organisations as the norm rather than the exception and the comprehensive spending review allocated resources on this basis.

Communities and Local Government will shortly publish for consultation Statutory Guidance on 'Strong and Prosperous Communities', which will include guidance on three-year grant funding in line with Government commitments on stable funding for the third sector.

For PCTs, the Commissioning Framework for Health and Wellbeing sets out a vision for commissioning within the NHS that acknowledges the need for fair and open procurement and contractual processes which are proportionate, neutral between different types of providers, transparent on pricing and allows for longer term contracts where appropriate.

'Guidance to Funders and Purchasers', published by HM Treasury in May 2006, draws together best practice in funding the third sector. It highlights the roles of common data standards and monitoring requirements and the use of 'lead funders' to reduce bureaucracy.

PRIME MINISTER

10 Downing Street: Official Hospitality

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the Answer of 15th October 2007, *Official Report*, column 819W, on 10 Downing Street: official hospitality, for what reason he did not provide the information requested on *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* former hon. Members and *(c)* Peers who are not members of the Labour Party. [160449]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 819W.

Departments: Road Traffic Offences

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister how many fixed penalty tickets were incurred by vehicles within the purview of his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the total cost was. [157911]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) today.

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister how much was spent by his Office on staff away days in the last 12 months. [153153]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) today.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister how much was spent by his Office on *(a)* staff and *(b)* communication training in the last 12 months. [153154]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary to the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) today.

Members: Overseas Residence

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Prime Minister if he will bring forward legislation to exclude from membership of Parliament any individual who is not a UK resident for tax purposes. [159985]

Helen Goodman: I have been asked to reply.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice has confirmed to me that the Government have no plans to bring forward such legislation.

Tony Blair

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to his answer of 1 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 820W, on Tony Blair, for what reason he did not give the date of his last meeting with Tony Blair. [160450]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 820W.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 24 October 2007

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will ensure that grants to local authorities to cover the concessionary bus pass scheme fully reflect the number of *(a)* qualifying residents in and *(b)* visitors to an area. [160096]

Ms Rosie Winterton: From April 2006, older and eligible disabled people have been guaranteed free off-peak local bus travel within their local authority area. The Government provided an extra £350 million in 2006-07 and a further £367.5 million in 2007-08, via the formula grant system, to fund the extra costs to local authorities.

The Government are providing local authorities in England an extra £212 million from April next year for the national bus concession. This extra funding is based on generous assumptions about the probable cost impact of the new concession, including visitor "hotspots". We are confident this funding will be sufficient in aggregate.

The £212 million will be distributed by a non-ringfenced special grant via a formula. The Department has recently published a consultation paper on the formula basis for distribution of the special grant. It includes a number of different options for distributing the new funding, taking account of likely cost drivers including eligible residents and visitors. This new consultation supersedes the Department for Communities and Local Government's consultation on the formula grant options for concessionary fares. Local authorities have been asked to respond to the special grant consultation by 23 November.

In addition, we have announced that we will be providing local authorities with approximately £30 million for the issuing of the national pass.

Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what modelling her Department has undertaken of runway lengths in relation to Heathrow airport's expansion; and if she will make a statement. [160430]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Results of modelling of a third runway at Heathrow, and the underlying assumptions, will be set out in our consultation later this year.

Lorries: A1

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will assess the merits of restricting heavy goods vehicles to the inside lane of the A1 dual carriageway between Grantham and Newark. [159322]

Mr. Tom Harris: There are no proposals to carry out such an assessment, as this section of the A1 is relatively flat and the Highways Agency is not aware of any particular problems caused by heavy goods vehicles using the outside lane on this stretch of the A1. However, the ongoing replacement of the existing roundabout at Gonerby Moor, with a split level junction, will remove an identified source of congestion on the A1. This work should be completed in late spring/early summer next year.

Lorry Drivers: Fines

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether foreign lorry drivers given on-the-spot fines will be required to pay the fine before the vehicle is allowed to proceed. [160039]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Yes.

Road Works: A1

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects work to be completed in the vicinity of the Gonerby Moor roundabout on the A1 in Lincolnshire; and if she will make a statement. [159321]

Mr. Tom Harris: The A1/B1174 Gonerby Moor junction improvement is being constructed at present. It is expected that the junction will be open for traffic in February 2008.

There will be minor works to complete after this date including planting. These will not delay the opening of the road.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many pedestrians and cyclists aged between 0 and 15 years *(a)* died and *(b)* were seriously injured on UK roads in 2006. [160072]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department collects personal injury road accidents data only for Great Britain.

The information requested is available from table 34 of "Road Casualties Great Britain: 2006 annual report". Copies of the report have been deposited in the Libraries of the House. This table can also be found on the Department's website at the following web address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/172974/173025/221412/221549/227755/285672/WebTables2140.xls

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what change there was in the number of road deaths of children aged up to 15 years between 2000 and 2006. [160073]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There has been a 12 per cent. decrease between 2000 and 2006 in the number of child (0-15 years old) fatalities resulting from reported personal injury road accidents.

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many children aged up to 15 years *(a)* killed and *(b)* seriously injured on UK roads in each of

the last 10 years were killed (i) on their journey to or from school and (ii) within 300 metres of their home; and how many were travelling (A) on foot, (B) on a bicycle and (C) in a vehicle in each case. [160074]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department collects personal injury road accident data only for Great Britain. Information on the number of children injured within 300 m of their home is not available.

The number of children (aged 0-15 years) *(a)* killed or *(b)* seriously injured in reported personal injury road accidents on their way to or from school, by (i) foot, (ii) pedal cycle and (iii) in other vehicles for the past 10 years for Great Britain is given in the table.

Children (aged 0-15)

Number of casualties

	Pedestrian		*Pedal cyclist*		*Other vehicles*		*Total*	
	Killed	*Serious*	*Killed*	*Serious*	*Killed*	*Serious*	*Killed*	*Serious*
1997	22	934	3	99	0	101	25	1,134
1998	15	847	3	108	7	135	25	1,090
1999	16	765	3	113	3	108	22	986
2000	19	762	2	64	3	81	24	907
2001	16	722	0	53	5	60	21	835
2002	8	718	3	64	2	81	13	863
2003	11	521	1	44	1	41	13	606
2004	10	502	2	35	2	53	14	590
2005	6	448	1	51	4	45	11	544
2006	15	425	1	39	2	33	18	497

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Anniversaries: Oliver Cromwell

Mr. Kidney: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what plans he has for Parliament to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the death of Oliver Cromwell. [159080]

Nick Harvey: I understand that no proposal has been made to the Administration Committee to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the death of Oliver Cromwell. The hon. Member may wish to contact the Cromwell Association which is planning events around this anniversary.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 17 October, on the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund, how much was allocated to each recipient under the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund in each year since inception. [159901]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA's Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund database contains details of amounts paid to each recipient from April 2004 onwards, but a breakdown of annual payments is not recorded centrally. I have arranged for a list of recipients of grant from the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund, since April 2004, to be placed in the Library of the House.

Agriculture: South West Region

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will increase the funding of the South West Rural Enterprise Gateway to help farmers diversify. [159328]

Jonathan Shaw: The South West Rural Enterprise Gateway has received DEFRA funding under the England Rural Development programme and Objective One of the European Agricultural Guidance and Guarantee Fund (the latter specifically for its activities in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly). This funding was to support the development of farm and rural businesses, including skills acquisition.

Future support in the region under the Rural Development programme for England will be delivered by the South West of England Regional Development Agency. The Agency is working with the Enterprise Gateway on plans to take forward its delivery responsibilities for the new programme, which will include support for farm diversification and other rural business development activities. The precise level of funding will be a matter for the South West of England Regional Development Agency.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many claims for the single farm payment remain to be validated, broken down by year of application; and if he will make a statement. [159551]

Jonathan Shaw: For the 2005 Single Farm Payment scheme (SPS), there are 12 claims where processing is not complete. All of these claims are held up by legal issues such as probate.

For SPS 2006, there are 434 claims where processing is not yet complete. 223 of these claims have received partial payments and the Rural Payments Agency is continuing to process these claims to provide top up payments where applicable. The other 211 are claims for which a payment is yet to be made. Many of these are complex cases involving probate, business partnership changes and domestic issues. It is likely that on completion of processing, some of these claims will not be eligible for payment. Where it is confirmed that payments are due, these will be made as soon as possible.

The figures are as at 17 October 2007.

Angling

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans his Department has to implement the recommendations of the 2005 Securing the Benefits report on the fishing industry with regard to recreational sea angling; and if he will make a statement. [159719]

Jonathan Shaw: Recommendations in the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit report "Net Benefits" concerned with inshore fisheries in England, including recreational sea angling (RSA), were addressed in

DEFRA's "Charting a New Course". These publications are available in the Library of the House.

Progress to implement RSA recommendations has included:

i. A consultation on proposals to increase the minimum landing size for bass launched in November 2005. I will be making an announcement on this shortly;

ii. Establishment of a central focal point within DEFRA for RSA interests;

iii. Strengthened representation for anglers on Sea Fisheries Committees;

iv. Proposals in the Marine Bill White Paper for a more active approach to managing recreational fisheries; and

v. A draft RSA strategy, developed in collaboration with key stakeholders including recreational anglers, commercial fishermen and other interested parties. We will be consulting on this shortly.

Animal Welfare

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will bring forward proposals for measures to regulate the activities of the trainers and exhibitors of performing animals; and if he will make a statement. [159673]

Jonathan Shaw: There are two sets of measures currently in development which will have an impact on the regulation of performing animals.

Last year my hon. Friend, the then Minister for Animal Welfare (Mr. Bradshaw), announced that he was minded to introduce Regulations under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 to ban the use of certain non-domesticated species from travelling circuses, whose welfare needs cannot be met in that environment.

A Circus Working Group was formed to provide and consider evidence relating to the transportation and housing needs of these animals. The Group will shortly provide a report setting out the findings to my DEFRA ministerial colleagues and I. The report will help inform us how we take forward the introduction of regulations.

The Government are also committed to repealing the Performing Animals (Regulation) Act 1925 which is ineffectual in setting and maintaining standards in the wider performing animal industry. I want to see in its place an open and auditable regulatory system that clearly addresses issues such as training, trainer competences and the way that animals across the whole spectrum of performance are looked after. Discussions are taking place between industry and welfare groups to see how this can be achieved.

Animal Welfare: Zoos

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will investigate the circumstances surrounding the recent fatal shooting of a chimpanzee at Whipsnade Zoo; and if he will make a statement. [159661]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 23 October 2007]:* My Department has no direct role in decisions regarding the shooting of escaped zoo animals.

Zoos are regulated by means of a licensing and inspection regime administered by local authorities. South Bedfordshire district council is responsible for licensing Whipsnade Zoo where this incident took place. I understand the council is investigating the incident and that a full inspection of the zoo will be carried out in due course.

I also understand that Whipsnade Zoo is carrying out its own investigation into why the chimpanzee escaped from its enclosure.

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidelines are in force to advise zoo owners of appropriate action to take when an animal escapes; whether requirements are in place to require the use of tranquilising darts rather than firearms; and if he will make a statement. [159662]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 23 October 2007]:* Section 1A(d) of the Zoo Licensing Act 1981 (as amended) requires zoos to prevent the escape of animals and to put in place measures to be taken in the event of an escape or unauthorised release of animals.

In addition, DEFRA's Secretary of State's Standards of Modern Zoo Practice (SSSMZP) provides guidance, to ensure public safety, on the procedures that should be established by the zoo relating to animal escapes.

Procedures relating to animal escapes should include the provision of firearms and darting equipment to tranquillise or kill escaped animals. The precise details of these are discussed and agreed by the zoo operator and the local police. The zoo is responsible for the selection of the appropriate firearm or darting equipment to deal with escaped animals.

Animals: Disease Control

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will list the improvement notices issued by the Health and Safety Executive to the Institute for Animal Health concerning *(a)* Compton and *(b)* Pirbright in each of the last five years; and what the subject was of each such notice; [155782]

(2) on how many occasions the Health and Safety Executive found the statutory requirements of the Institute for Animal Health at its *(a)* Compton and *(b)* Pirbright sites to have been breached in each of the last five years. [155783]

Mrs. McGuire: I have been asked to reply

In the last five years in relation to the IAH Compton site HSE Inspectors have issued the following improvement notices:

2003: for failure to control the risk to health from animal asthmagens;

2006: for failure to adequately control the exposure of employees and others to *legionella* bacteria;

2007: for lack of effective monitoring and review arrangements as part of an overall health and safety management system;

2007: for the use of an unauthorised biocidal product.

HSE Inspectors have issued no notices at the Pirbright site where HSE is not the lead regulator. However, HSE, in conjunction with DEFRA, suspended, from 24 September 2007, all activities that involve manipulation of genetically modified viruses that could pose a risk to the environment and which require class 3 and 4 approval as required under the Genetically Modified Organisms (Contained Use) Regulations 2000.

Bluetongue: Vaccination

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on progress in developing a vaccine for the bluetongue strain BTV8; what the involvement of *(a)* Merial and *(b)* other pharmaceutical companies is in this process; and what work is being undertaken in co-operation with other EU countries. [159530]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 19 October 2007]:* There is currently no suitable inactivated vaccine for bluetongue serotype 8 (BTV-8) available, as this serotype only emerged in Europe last year.

We are aware of a number of companies such as Merial, Intervet and Fort Dodge who are developing such a vaccine and we are in urgent discussions with all these companies to do what we can to encourage this work. DEFRA officials recently participated in a conference with those companies and other member states affected by BTV-8 to discuss the availability of vaccines and possible approaches to vaccination. We are also developing a plan with the farming industry as to how a vaccination campaign could work once a vaccine becomes available, and is licensed as safe and effective for use, which we understand should be next summer.

Carbon Emissions: Standards

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will include annual targets for carbon reductions in the Climate Change Bill. [158761]

Mr. Woolas: The Climate Change Bill will be published in due course.

Climate Change Levy

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the National Audit Office report The Climate Change Levy and Climate Change Agreements. [159480]

Mr. Woolas: The National Audit Office report was prepared for the Environmental Audit Committee inquiry into the Climate Change Levy and Climate Change Agreements.

My Department has provided written evidence to the Committee and the Secretary of State will be giving oral evidence on 31 October. Once the Committee has completed its work and prepared its report, a formal Government response will be provided.

Departments: Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance his Department follows on the maximum time taken to respond to hon. Members' correspondence; and what performance against that target was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [158596]

Jonathan Shaw: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my right hon. Fiend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Edward Miliband) on 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 45W.

Departments: Cost Effectiveness

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what work his Department has undertaken to identify the efficiency savings suggested in the Comprehensive Spending Review as available by 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [158355]

Jonathan Shaw: As part of the Comprehensive Spending Review DEFRA undertook zero based reviews of Animal Health and Welfare, Flood Risk Management and Natural Resources Protection. The evidence in these reviews informed ministerial decisions on departmental priorities for the CSR.

Like all Government Departments DEFRA will publish a VFM delivery agreement setting out our strategy for delivering savings identified in the CSR by the end of the year.

Departments: Parking Offences

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fixed penalty tickets were incurred by vehicles within the purview of his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the total cost was. [157871]

Jonathan Shaw: From information held centrally, and for the period April 2006 to March 2007 inclusive, the number of fixed penalty notices incurred by the core-Department was 28. Information relating to DEFRA's Executive Agencies is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. DEFRA's policy is that drivers are responsible personally for the payment of fixed penalty notice fines incurred by them while using a departmental vehicle.

Environment Protection: Nuclear Power

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what reports he has received of the meeting in Vienna on 30 September on nuclear safety and the environment held by his Irish, Austrian, German, Italian, Latvian and Norwegian counterparts. [159475]

Mr. Woolas: My right hon. friend the Secretary of State has received no official reports on the meeting in Vienna on 30 September on new nuclear build and climate change.

Fisheries: Angling

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has commissioned studies on the effects of commercial catching practices on recreational sea angling. [159472]

Jonathan Shaw: I will be making an announcement shortly on work that will take account of recreational sea anglers' interest in fisheries and consider the impact of different fishing practices.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Compensation

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what compensation is available to *(a)* cattle hauliers and *(b)* other industries allied to farming adversely affected by the cattle movement restrictions in place as a result of foot and mouth disease. [158636]

Jonathan Shaw: Under the Animal Health Act 1981, compensation is paid for animals that are compulsorily culled to prevent the spread of certain diseases. For foot and mouth disease (FMD), the Act requires that compensation is paid at the full market value of the animal before it became infected. Compensation is also paid for other items, such as farm equipment and feed, where these are seized because they are considered to be contaminated; this includes such things as milk.

It is a long established principle that the Government does not meet the costs of consequential losses, which must be borne by the industry.

DEFRA is taking a risk-based and staged approach to easing movement restrictions when the evidence indicates that it is appropriate to do so. We have announced that we will lift all restrictions in most unaffected areas of the country on 17 October, subject to the disease situation. This is the best way to facilitate the return to normal working for the industry. We are working in partnership with the industry, but eradication of FMD remains our priority.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Disease Control

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs at how many premises during the recent outbreaks of foot and mouth disease culling was undertaken before the receipt of test results. [157934]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* With the exception of the first infected premises (IP1) where provisional positive laboratory results were available, authorisation to cull the remaining premises was made under the slaughter on suspicion or dangerous contact policies. Some of the subsequent premises may have been subject to earlier surveillance visits and blood testing, but culling was initiated at all the remaining 16 premises prior to the final laboratory test results being received. Premises have only been confirmed as infected premises on the basis of positive laboratory results and none of the premises have been confirmed on clinical grounds alone.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many test results which were available before culling during the recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease were negative. [157935]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* Of the 17 premises culled for disease control purposes, with the exception of the first infected premises (IP1) where provisional positive laboratory result were available, 16 were culled on the basis of suspicious clinical signs under the slaughter on suspicion policy or after having been assessed as dangerous contacts. No definitive negative tests from contemporaneous samples were available at the time culling was authorised.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether there are any plans to revise the rules covering the movement of livestock following the latest outbreaks of foot and mouth and blue tongue. [159248]

Jonathan Shaw: The framework of rules covering the movement of livestock in the event of an outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD) or bluetongue is set out in the European Union Directive 2003/85, the European Directive 2000/75 and the Commission Decision 2005/395 respectively.

DEFRA has been involved in recent negotiations surrounding the revision of movement restrictions for bluetongue outbreaks, in order to reflect the lessons learned during the recent outbreaks on the continent.

While the general principles of movement controls are applicable in each outbreak of a disease, movement conditions may differ depending on the nature of the outbreak and the assessed risk. In order to facilitate the return to normal working for the industry, we are taking a risk-based and staged approach to easing movement restrictions when the evidence indicates it is appropriate to do so.

During the current outbreaks of FMD and bluetongue, DEFRA and industry representatives have been meeting frequently to discuss movement control strategies.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Export Controls

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to the British economy resulting from the ban on farming exports during the most recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease. [159655]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 19 October 2007]:* The foot and mouth disease restrictions as a whole are estimated to have cost livestock producers about £100 million to early October 2007. Market impacts account for some three quarters of this, and the larger part of these market impacts are attributable to the export ban. The overall net cost to the British economy is likely to have been less.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Hunting

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will lift the restrictions placed on drag hunting during the foot and mouth outbreak. [159161]

Jonathan Shaw: On 12 October, a general licence was issued which authorises the hunting of any drag or other trail within the foot and mouth disease surveillance and restricted zones in England. This licence was issued subject to the necessary conditions of biosecurity being satisfied by participants in such hunting activities.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Subsidies

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will ensure that there is parity in the financial assistance packages introduced for farmers in the UK following the recent foot and mouth outbreaks; [157424]

(2) what discussions he plans to have with devolved administrations on developing packages of financial support to farmers following the recent foot and mouth outbreaks. [157425]

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what resources he plans to make available to the devolved administrations to support welfare packages for farmers in light of the recent foot and mouth outbreak. [157741]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 and 16 October 2007]:* We are working closely with the devolved administrations during the current foot and mouth disease and bluetongue outbreaks to co-ordinate our response. DEFRA has had a range of discussions with both the Scottish Executive and the National Assembly for Wales, on the disease situation and control measures at both ministerial and official level.

Certain functions under the Animal Health Act 1981, including disease control functions were transferred to the National Assembly for Wales under the Transfer of Functions Order 2004 (SI 2004/3044). Similarly, certain functions on disease control relating to the Animal Health Act 1981 were transferred to the Scottish Executive under the Scotland Act.

However, DEFRA has agreed to make payments on behalf of the National Assembly for Wales and the Scottish Executive for animals killed and property seized due to foot and mouth disease. This does not however extend to specific Welsh or Scottish schemes to protect animal welfare or to support farmers during disease outbreaks. Such schemes remain the responsibility of the devolved administrations who have decided to introduce, their own during the current outbreak.

In my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's statement to the House on 8 October, he set out an aid package for the English livestock sector to assist those farmers most affected.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Transport

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department plans to relax the 20 day standstill rule for livestock outside the foot and mouth controlled zones. [157421]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* Movement of any susceptible animal from a premises in Great Britain is currently not permitted if any susceptible animal has been moved on to that premises in the 20 days before the date of the intended move unless a susceptible animal is moving direct to slaughter.

However, since 4 October, in the foot and mouth disease (FMD) low risk area and the bluetongue protection and control zones, breeding rams may be brought on to a premises that has an isolation unit with a current, valid approval under the Disease Control (England) Order 2003. This is an exception to the 20 day standstill required for farm to farm movements.

Since 9 October, pigs have also been able to move unlimited distances without a standstill between two premises approved under Article 14 of the Pigs Records, Identification and Movement Order 2007. There is no need for pre-movement veterinary inspection but this does require one working day's notice to the local Animal Health office.

On 12 October, DEFRA announced the intention to lift the FMD Protection Zone in Surrey on Wednesday 17 October. DEFRA also announced the intention to lift all movement restrictions in England, outside of the FMD Risk Area, to coincide with this lifting of the Protection Zone. From this point forwards, there will be a reversion to the six day standstill rule.

These decisions have been taken following extensive surveillance in the area, and are in line with EU rules.

Land: Contamination

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much is available for contaminated land grants in 2007-08; and how much was available in each of the previous four years. [159739]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA's Contaminated Land Capital Projects Programme has been resourced by grants, provided under the Local Government Act 2003, since 2006-07. The grant paid for 2006-07 was £13.5 million but the figure for 2007-08 is not yet available.

In the three years before the introduction of grants, the contaminated land programme funding was by Supplementary Credit Approvals in 2003-04, and by Supported Capital Expenditure (Revenue) in 2004-05 and 2005-06. Under both finance systems, the funding was delivered via the Revenue Support Grant system. The amounts for 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 were £15.3 million, £10.3 million and £12.3 million respectively.

Milk

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the level of carbon emissions generated by storing *(a)* ultra high temperature milk and *(b)* fresh milk. [159329]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has commissioned a literature review of the existing evidence on the environmental impacts, and benefits, of the production and consumption of liquid milk. The literature review will attempt to quantify impacts, including those associated with storage, across the life cycle for a range of milks including UHT, pasteurised and organic. This review will be published later in the autumn.

Nature Conservation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to stop the rise in the number of species threatened with extinction and on the IUCN Red List. [159244]

Joan Ruddock: Most of the UK species on the present IUCN Red List are included in the list of UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) priority species which has recently undergone an extensive review. Conservation action is being taken under the UKBAP for many of these species and their habitats which will lessen the chance of their extinction.

Internationally, the Government are similarly concerned about the threat of species extinction, using as a focus the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD) target of significantly reducing the rate of biodiversity loss by 2010. The Government actively participate in inter-governmental biodiversity conservation agreements including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) and the Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) as well as through funding mechanisms such as DEFRA's Darwin Initiative and the Flagship Species Fund.

Pets: Fireworks

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to take steps to warn the public about the dangers of leaving pets outdoors around 5 November. [159249]

Jonathan Shaw: We understand that people are concerned about the distress that animals might experience because of fireworks. The Animal Welfare Act 2006 makes it an offence to infuriate or terrify any animal. Any person or organisation may initiate proceedings under this Act. The courts alone must decide whether an offence has been committed.

The use of fireworks is governed by the Fireworks Act 2003. Regulations were introduced in 2004 under this Act to prohibit the use of fireworks after 11 pm (12 pm on 5 November). They also ban the supply of excessively loud fireworks. These measures were brought in partly to protect animals.

Our general advice, which will be published on the DEFRA website, is to:

i. keep all pets inside the house once the sun starts to set, some people set off fireworks before nightfall;

ii. cover aviaries and rabbit hutches so that should the very loud noises disturb the animals, they do at least have a natural-like habitat, where they are able to hide;

iii. feed and exercise your animals well during the day, this will lead to a calmer animal once the noise starts;

iv. if your dog runs for its bed, a cupboard or under the bed, leave it there and allow it to follow its natural instinct which is to hide in a den or cave;

v. do not try to acclimatise your dog to the noise by insisting it faces the noise, they may never get used to the noise and you may be causing damage;

vi. allow the dog comforts within the den, give it its blanket, some water and a toy to make it feel comfortable;

vii. your dog may jump into the bath or start to dig, which shows its instinct to run into holes when danger is present; and

viii. if your dog shows any tendency to hide, let it do so.

Pigs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will introduce a Sow Welfare Disposal scheme. [158294]

Jonathan Shaw: We have no plans to introduce a Sow Welfare Disposal scheme. Welfare issues arising from foot and mouth disease (FMD) and bluetongue control measures are being dealt with on a case-by-case basis through the use of special movement licences or measures to support the farmer in their duty of care towards their animals. This includes the provision of advice, temporary shelter and access to supplementary feed.

We are working to ensure that sufficient slaughter capacity is available, particularly for farmers in the bluetongue restriction zone, and would urge farmers facing welfare problems to move animals to slaughter wherever practicable and permitted by disease control restrictions.

Lifting movement restrictions on a phased basis is the best way to alleviate welfare problems facing the industry. On 12 October, DEFRA announced the intention to lift the FMD protection zone in Surrey on Wednesday 17 October. DEFRA also plans to lift all movement restrictions in England, outside the FMD risk area, to coincide with this lifting of the protection zone. These changes will be made provided that there is no change to the disease situation.

Rural Payments Agency: Complaints

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many complaints the Rural Payments Agency has received in the last 12 months. [160255]

Jonathan Shaw: The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) received 1,824 complaints between 1 October 2006 and 30 September 2007.

The complaints were raised in letters addressed to Ministers, RPA's Chief Executive or Customer Relations Unit either by the customers themselves or by MPs acting on their behalf.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest: Tree Felling

Mr. Ian Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to prevent the felling of trees on sites of special scientific interest. [160049]

Joan Ruddock: Sites of special scientific interest (SSSIs) are notified to conserve and enhance the full range of England's biodiversity. Some SSSIs are notified for interest features which are liable to damage by trees. On such sites, the felling of trees may be necessary and Natural England works with local landowners and communities so that any felling is carried out in accordance with a management plan.

The aim is to secure the favourable or recovering condition of SSSIs, in accordance with our PSA target to have 95 per cent. SSSIs in England in favourable or recovering condition by 2010. Where woodland is a notified feature of a SSSI, or it supports other notified interest features, it will be conserved or restored as appropriate. Overall the area of woodland being conserved (over 84,000 hectares) is far in excess of the area being felled to restore other features (1,440 hectares).

Waste Management: Industrial Health and Safety

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what health and safety guidance has been provided to local authorities in relation to manual handling in kerbside collection of domestic rubbish and recyclables. [158215]

Mrs. McGuire: I have been asked to reply

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has not produced any guidance specifically for local authorities on manual handling in the kerbside collection of domestic waste and recyclables. However, HSE's web pages include guidance on interpreting and applying the results of research reported in 'Manual handling in kerbside collection and sorting of recyclables', in order to secure the best possible risk assessment and strike the best balance between environmental controls, meeting landfill diversion targets and ensuring the health and safety of those affected by the industry.

Whales

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress is being made in establishing which countries are being approached by Japan to join the International Whaling Commission. [160292]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 23 October 2007]:* Foreign and Commonwealth Office posts are aware of the need to watch for indicators that countries may join the International Whaling Commission and adopt a pro-whaling stance. Posts in the relevant capitals are briefed, and engage in discussion with their counterparts on whaling at every appropriate opportunity. Countries are in no doubt as to the importance that the UK attaches to whale conservation.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress is being made in engaging in discussions about whaling with countries that vote with Japan at the International Whaling Commission but have no interest in whaling. [160294]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 23 October 2007]:* We continue to raise the issue of whaling with countries that adopt a pro-whaling stance within the International Whaling Commission (IWC) at every appropriate opportunity. Posts abroad will continue to lobby all countries to support the UK's position. The prominent rôle we play within the IWC ensures no country can be in any doubt as to the importance we attach to whale conservation.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office will also shortly deliver an updated version of the publication "Protecting Whales - A Global Responsibility" to Governments that support whaling to encourage these nations to join the effort to protect these species and maintain the moratorium on commercial whaling.

Whales: Conservation

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress is being made in recruiting more pro-conservation countries to join the International Whaling Commission. [159982]

Jonathan Shaw: We continue to lobby all countries who express any interest in joining the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to support the UK's position. Uruguay has recently joined and several other countries have committed to adhere in time for next year's annual meeting.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office will also shortly deliver an updated version of the publication "Protecting Whales - A Global Responsibility" to host Governments to encourage more anti-whaling countries to join the effort to protect these species and maintain the moratorium on commercial whaling.

Whales: Hunting

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he has had discussions with Japanese government ministers on the killing of whales for alleged scientific research. [159826]

Jonathan Shaw: There have been no recent discussions between DEFRA Ministers and Japanese Ministers on this issue. However, at this year's annual meeting of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the UK and other anti-whaling countries were able to sponsor and secure a key resolution calling on Japan to halt its lethal "scientific" research programme.

In December last year, the British ambassador to Japan took part in a 27 country démarche to both the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Japanese Fisheries Agency to protest against Japan's programme of lethal special permit ("scientific") whaling in the Southern Ocean.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will hold discussions with the Prime Minister of New Zealand on Japan's whaling activity in the Southern Ocean sanctuary; and if he will make a statement. [160045]

Jonathan Shaw: I have no plans to meet the Prime Minister of New Zealand to discuss specifically this issue, but UK Government Ministers and officials engage in regular discussion with all members of the International Whaling Commission regarding Japan's continued whaling activity.

White Fish

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the volume of wild bass stocks. [159471]

Jonathan Shaw: Scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea in 2004, suggested that the bass stock is fished sustainably. A more recent study assessing bass stocks in British coastal waters by the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) suggests the biomass of the adult population has approximately doubled between 1995 and 2004, though there is no estimate of the absolute biomass of bass stocks. Catches in the UK fishery increased from 1234 to 2211 tonnes over the same period. Cefas expects to update the stock assessment for bass later this year.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

EU Aid

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether UK aid channelled through the EU may be earmarked by the UK for specific *(a)* purposes and *(b)* countries; and if he will make a statement. [160052]

Mr. Thomas: UK aid channelled through the EU cannot be earmarked for specific countries or purposes. This aid is managed by the European Commission, which bases its country allocation decisions on agreed criteria, and develops its strategies for each country on the basis of the development priorities of that country's Government. The UK and the other member states oversee the Commission's decisions on aid allocations through attendance at the relevant management committees.

EU Aid: Commonwealth

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the total amount of EU aid to Commonwealth countries was in each of the last five years; and what proportion was attributable to the UK in each year. [160047]

Mr. Thomas: Official Development Assistance (ODA) from EU member states and the EC to Commonwealth countries over the last five years is laid out in the following table:

Table 1: ODA to Commonwealth Countries from EU members and EC, 2001-05

£ million

	EU Members and EC ODA to Commonwealth Countries	*UK ODA to Commonwealth Countries*
2001	3,333	943
2002	3,848	830
2003	3,683	1,117
2004	3,667	1,172
2005[1]	6,982	2,243

[1] In 2005, Nigeria received large sums of debt relief of £3,024 million from DAC EU members, of which £1,136 million from UK.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Council Tax: Durham

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each of the districts of County Durham qualify for council tax benefit but do not claim it. [160633]

Mr. Plaskitt: Estimates of the numbers entitled to, but not claiming, council tax benefit are not available below the level of Great Britain. Latest estimates of the numbers entitled but not claiming at that level can be found in "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2005-06". A copy of the report is available in the Library.

Departments: Advertising

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's projected spending is on advertising and promotional campaigns for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09, broken down by cost relating to (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media. [155888]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions runs a number of promotional campaigns aimed at increasing awareness of rights and responsibilities among the general public, benefit claimants and employers. Some of these communications campaigns include advertising through TV, radio and press media and are detailed in the following table.

The table gives the figures for projected media spend to the end of the financial year 2007-08. These figures remain provisional as we continually assess the effectiveness of our activities throughout the remainder of the year.

Projected spend for 2008-9 is not available as budgets have yet to be finalised.

2007 to 2008

(£)

Campaign	*TV 000*	*Radio 000*	*Print media 000*	*Total (by campaign)*
Targeting benefit thieves. Aims to increase awareness of what constitutes fraud, highlight the likelihood of getting caught and the consequences.	1,600	1,600	2,450	5,650
Employ ability. Challenges employer attitudes to the recruitment and retention of people with health conditions or disabilities	—	—	200	200
Lone Parents. Highlights how a job can benefit the life of a lone parent and their family.	—	15	—	15
Local Employer Partnerships. Seeks to secure employers' commitment to provide 250,000 opportunities for often overlooked people to move into work over 3 years	—	—	250	250
Pension Credit. Aims to raise the number of returned applications for Pension Credit and highlight the "right" to claim.	—	500	1,300	1,800

2007 to 2008

Campaign	*TV 000*	*Radio 000*	*Print media 000*	*Total (by campaign)* (£)
Now Lets Talk Money. Seeks to help financially excluded people get free, local money advice about basic financial services.	—	400	450	850
Incapacity Benefit Customers Campaign (Jobcentre Plus Scotland) Aims to raise overall awareness of the help and support Jobcentre Plus can provide in helping customers back into work.	100	—	—	100
Child Maintenance Enforcement Campaign Challenges the culture of non-compliance by highlighting the action we can and will take against non-resident parents who fail to pay maintenance.	—	200	650	850
Overall total	1,700	2,715	5,300	9,715

Notes:
1. The table does not include the following as the information is not held centrally and to obtain it would incur disproportionate cost: spend by non-departmental public bodies for which the Department if responsible details of highly localised publicity activity by the Departments customer facing businesses recruitment or procurement advertising. The figures in the table refer to media spend only excluding production, direct mail activity, public relations and other costs. Some of our campaigns supporting customer understanding of entitlements and support do not use advertising and therefore have not been listed.
2. All figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand.
3. All figures are quoted excluding VAT.

Departments: Contracts

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of contracted provision being delivered by a private sector provider for which his Department is responsible was won against a public sector bid; and what the value is of such private contracts. [154315]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* The Information is not available in the format requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

Departments: Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were employed by his Department on 1 January in each of the last five years; and how many of these staff were *(a)* permanent employees, *(b)* temporary staff and *(c)* contractors. [158328]

Mrs. McGuire: Information on the number of staff employed by the Department for Work and Pensions as at 31 March 2007 is published by the Office for National Statistics in table 6 of the Quarterly Public Sector Employment First Release at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/pse0607.pdf

This is the key official source of work force numbers for the civil service and provides a breakdown of permanent and temporary employees by Department.

For earlier years, the source is at table A of the Civil Service Statistics publication.

2006 (30 September)

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vink=2899&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422

2005 (1 April)

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/reports/2005/tablesandcharts/index.asp

2004 (1 April)

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/reports/2004/tablesandcharts/index.asp

2003 (1 April)

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/reports/2003/tablesandcharts/index.asp

For 2005 and 2006, the civil service statistics were not published with the permanent and temporary breakdown so the information is available in the following table.

	Permanent		*Temporary*		*Total*	
	Headcount	*FTE*	*Headcount*	*FTE*	*Headcount*	*FTE*
30 September 2006	121,430	109,110	3,690	3,520	125,120	112,630
1 April 2005	129,450	117,100	1,850	1,740	131,300	118,840

Statistics on the number of contractors employed by the Department are not published. The civil service statistics represent those employees paid directly from the Department's payroll. Any contractors employed via agencies and so not paid directly by the Department are not included.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by his Department are above state retirement age. [158938]

Mrs. McGuire: The number and percentage of employees above state pension age, of 65 for men and 60 for women, for Departments and Executive agencies is not available from published sources, but information collected from the last Annual Civil Service Employment Survey in September 2006 is in the following table.

	Number of staff	*Percentage of staff*
Departmental Corporate Units	140	1.24
Child Support Agency	200	1.56
Disability and Carers Service	210	2.93
Jobcentre Plus	1,650	2.10
The Pension Service	240	1.63
The Rent Service	15	2.29

A total of 2,455 staff in DWP are above state pension age, of 65 for men and 60 for women (1.91 per cent.).

The information requested is not available for non-departmental public bodies.

Departments: Standards

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many of his Department's public service agreement targets *(a)* take and *(b)* do not take account of rural proofing. [159634]

Mrs. McGuire: Over the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 period (2008-11) the Department has lead responsibility for two PSAs; "Maximise Employment Opportunity for All" and "Tackle Poverty and Promote Independence and Well-being in Later Life".

The Department and its delivery partners remain committed to taking account of rural issues when delivering services and policies in support of both PSAs.

Disability Living Allowance: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Peterborough constituency were in receipt of disability living allowance in each year since 1997. [160213]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Disability living allowance—cases in payment in Peterborough parliamentary constituency

	Number
May 1997	3,200
May 1998	3,400
May 1999	3,700
May 2000	3,700
May 2001	3,700
May 2002	4,100
May 2003	4,350
May 2004	4,460
May 2005	4,590
May 2006	4,680
February 2007	4,740

Notes:
1. Totals show the number of people in receipt and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
2. May 97-May 2001 case load figures are rated in line with WPLS totals and rounded to the nearest hundred.
3. May 2002-February 2007 case load figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
4. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
5. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (May 2002-February 2007); Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample (May 97-May 2001).

Disability: Young People

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what publicly-funded assistance is available to young people with a disability who wish to move from education into work. [159273]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 18 October 2007]*: Jobcentre Plus provides a wide range of help to young people with disabilities who wish to move from education into work.

New deal for young people (NDYP) is mandatory for all 18-24 year-olds who have been claiming jobseeker's allowance (JSA) continuously for six months. Early entry can be allowed for certain groups including people with disabilities. NDYP aims to move people into sustainable work as quickly as possible and provide those who need it with extra help to improve their employability.

There is also a range of specialist disability measures and programmes for young people who are not in receipt of JSA.

Disability employment advisers (DEAs) are trained to help people with a range of disabilities and health conditions consider work, take up work and also retain their jobs. DEAs concentrate on making their customer aware of their capabilities and how to overcome their own particular barriers in the workplace.

Young people may benefit from The Access to Work programme. They can be helped by a support worker in a number of ways, for example as a job coach, mentor, advocate or counsellor.

WORKSTEP is a programme of supported employment which can provide tailored support to find, and retain, jobs for people with disabilities who have more complex barriers to finding and keeping work.

Work preparation is an individually tailored, work-focused programme that enables people to address barriers associated with their disability and prepare to access a labour market with the confidence necessary to achieve and sustain their job goal.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has to link the lower limit of the earnings disregard of incapacity benefit with *(a)* the minimum wage and *(b)* average earnings. [159670]

Mrs. McGuire: Recipients of incapacity benefit are able to undertake permitted work subject to some limits, which include weekly earnings limits. The

permitted work lower limit is £20 a week. There are no plans to link the lower limit to the minimum wage or average earnings but the Government keep such limits under review.

Incapacity Benefit: Employment

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the impact of the lower limit of the earnings disregard of incapacity benefit on benefit recipients' *(a)* willingness and *(b)* ability to enter the labour market. [159671]

Mrs. McGuire: There has been no specific assessment of the impact of the permitted work lower earnings limit on benefit recipients' willingness and ability to enter the labour market. However, there is clear evidence that, for a number of clients, the permitted work rules have acted as a stepping stone to employment.

Incapacity Benefit: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of adults of working age in Peterborough constituency were claiming incapacity benefits in each year since 1997. [160209]

Mrs. McGuire: The information is not available.

Industrial Health and Safety: Formaldehyde

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Government will adopt the recommendations of the European Commission's Scientific Committee on Occupational Exposure Limits to reduce occupational exposure limit values for formaldehyde to 0.2 ppm for eight-hour time weighted average and to 0.4 ppm for short-term exposure limits up to 15 minutes. [160389]

Mrs. McGuire: The Government do not intend to adopt the recommendations on formaldehyde from the European Commission's Scientific Committee on occupational exposure limits, at the current time.

However, discussions are currently ongoing within the European Commission on whether or not to include formaldehyde in the annex to a future indication occupational exposure limit values (IOELV) directive, and if so at what level. We anticipate the Commission will present a proposal to the Luxembourg Advisory Committee on Safety and Health in November.

Should an IOELV be agreed for formaldehyde in a future Commission directive, the UK Government will take that limit into account when setting their own domestic limit.

Mr. Martyn Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE's) Disease Reduction Programme has concluded its benchmarking exercise; what steps the HSE plans to take on workplace exposure limits for formaldehyde; and if he will make a statement. [160390]

Mrs. McGuire: The Health and Safety Executive's benchmarking exercise was presented in June 2007 to representatives of employers, trades unions, pressure groups and the scientific community at a workshop chaired by a highly respected independent academic.

There are no immediate plans to amend the current workplace exposure limits for formaldehyde. If, however, formaldehyde is included in the third European Commission Indicative Occupational Exposure Limit Values Directive, the Health and Safety Executive would be obliged to take account of that limit when setting a domestic limit in the UK.

Industrial Health and Safety: Recycling

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a copy of the most recent research from the Health and Safety Executive, the Health and Safety Commission and the Health and Safety Laboratory on manual handling in kerbside collection and sorting of recyclables. [158180]

Mrs. McGuire: The final and revised research report produced by the Health and Safety Laboratory, 'Manual handling in kerbside collection and sorting of recyclables' was published in May 2006 and is available to the public via the Health and Safety Executive's website. A copy has been forwarded to the House of Commons Library following this inquiry.

Industrial Health and Safety: Sunbeds

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress he is making in updating Health and Safety Leaflet INDG209 to contain information on the use of automated tanning salons. [160208]

Mrs. McGuire: Officials of the Health and Safety Executive and the Department for Health are continuing to assess how leaflet INDG 209 might best contain information on the use of automated tanning salons.

Members: Correspondence

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Complaint Review Team, Falkirk Child Support Agency office will reply to the fax of 17 September 2007 from the hon. Member for Edinburgh West in relation to his constituent Mr. Grant Lumsden. [158771]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 24 October 2007:

In reply to your recent parliamentary question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and pensions, when the Complaint Review Team, Falkirk Child Support Agency office would reply to the fax on 17 September 2007 from the hon. Member for Edinburgh West in relation to his constituent Mr. Grant Lumsden. [158771]

As details about individual cases are confidential I have written to you separately about this case.

National Insurance: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new national insurance numbers were issued to non-UK citizens resident in Peterborough City Council area in each month since January 2004. [160616]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available prior to April 2004. The available information is in the following table.

National insurance number registrations in respect of non-UK nationals in Peterborough local authority area from 6 April 2004

Month of registration	*Number of registrations*
6 April-30 April 2004	100
May 2004	170
June 2004	180
July 2004	170
August 2004	120
September 2004	170
October 2004	180
November 2004	350
December 2004	390
January 2005	250
February 2005	570
March 2005	720
April 2005	480
May 2005	480
June 2005	450
July 2005	300
August 2005	210
September 2005	420
October 2005	440
November 2005	310
December 2005	290
January 2006	470
February 2006	560
March 2006	690
April 2006	200
May 2006	290
June 2006	360
July 2006	370
August 2006	250
September 2006	330
October 2006	360
November 2006	400
December 2006	360
January 2007	770
February 2007	510
March 2007	560

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Numbers are based on 100 per cent. data from the National Insurance Recording System (NIRS).
4. Local authority is assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.
5. Local authority counts are based on the most recently recorded address of the national insurance number recipient.

Source:
100 per cent. sample at 25 June 2005, 17 June 2006 and 14 May 2007 from the National Insurance Recording System (NIRS).

Remploy

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to protect *(a)* jobs in and *(b)* contracts held by Remploy. [157327]

Mrs. McGuire: We have guaranteed that there will be no compulsory redundancies for disabled people. This was clearly highlighted in the written statement to Parliament on 19 July 2006 and reaffirmed by the then Secretary of State's statement on 22 May 2007.

Where Remploy are proposing that a factory will close, disabled employees will be offered a range of options including voluntary redundancy, early retirement or a job with another local employer on their current Remploy terms and conditions, including membership of Remploy's pension scheme. Some disabled employees will have the opportunity to transfer to another Remploy factory.

We have guaranteed that no recommendation for factory closure will be agreed without full scrutiny by Ministers.

DWP Ministers are currently pressing the case with Government colleagues for Remploy to retain and receive good quality public procurement work.

Social Security Benefits: Payments

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average annual cost has been of administering *(a)* a fuel direct payment under the Third Party Deductions scheme and *(b)* each payment under other key benefit payments administered by his Department in each of the last five years. [159934]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information is not available.

Televisions: Licensing

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many free television licences were issued in *(a)* Warley constituency and *(b)* Sandwell Metropolitan borough council in each of the last five years. [160122]

James Purnell: I have been asked to reply.

TV Licensing, who administer free television licences for people aged 75 or over as agents for the BBC, are not able to provide geographical breakdowns of the number of free licences issued. However, the number of households with at least one person aged 75 or over claiming the winter fuel payment as at winter 2006-07 in the Warley constituency was 4,910 and 17,840 in Sandwell, according to Department for Work and Pensions records.

SCOTLAND

Departments: Citizen's Juries

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many citizens' juries were arranged for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies in each year since 1997; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the cost was of each. [160018]

David Cairns: The Scotland office was established in July 1999 to advise on matters affecting the devolution settlement, as determined in the Scotland Act 1998. To date the Office has arranged no citizens' juries.

Departments: Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what guidance his Department follows on the maximum time taken to respond to hon. Members' correspondence; and what performance against that target was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [158586]

David Cairns: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend, the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Edward Miliband), on 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 45W.

Departments: ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the cost was of buying new *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistant devices for new Ministers in his Department following each Cabinet reshuffle since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [156728]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. Prior to 2005, records were not maintained in the form requested. Since that date, there has been no such expenditure on laptops, mobile telephones or personal digital assistant devices.

Departments: Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many people were employed by his Department on 1 January in each of the last five years; and how many of these staff were *(a)* permanent employees, *(b)* temporary staff and *(c)* contractors. [158330]

David Cairns: The number of staff in the Office, broken down by grade and gender, is published in the Office's annual report, copies of which are held in the House Library. The Scotland Office has not employed any contractors.

The number of temporary staff is shown in the following table, the figures relate to the total number of temporary staff—sometimes reflecting several temporary staff filling posts in succession. They do not reflect the total number of posts filled by temporary staff.

	Number
Scotland Office and Office of the Advocate General for Scotland	
2002-03	15
2003-04	20
2004-05	6
Scotland Office only	
2005-06	—
2006-07	3

Note:
Prior to 2005-06, separate figures were not maintained for SO and OAG.

Departments: Policy

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what policy changes his Department has implemented since 27 June 2007. [159282]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office is set up to advise on matters affecting the devolution settlement as provided in the Scotland Act 1998. Our direct policy responsibilities concern the conduct of elections to the Scottish Parliament and the relevant policy framework was put in place before the most recent elections held on 3 May.

Departments: Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many citizens' juries have been arranged by his Department since June 2007; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the estimated cost is of each exercise. [159489]

David Cairns: None.

Departments: Road Traffic Offences

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many fixed penalty tickets were incurred by vehicles within the purview of his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the total cost was. [157915]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office maintains the policy that road traffic violations, such as parking tickets and speeding fines, remain the responsibility of the individual and are not reimbursed from public funds. No costs were incurred by the Office in 2006-07.

The exception to this is the Government Car and Despatch Agency and I refer the hon. Member to his question answered on 18 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1185W, by my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick).

Domestic Visits

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many official visits he and his predecessor made to *(a)* Scotland, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [154442]

Des Browne: I and my predecessor have made numerous official visits to Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland during each of the last five years.

Visits Abroad

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many overseas meetings he *(a)* has attended since his appointment and *(b)* plans to attend in his role as Secretary of State. [153865]

Des Browne: I have not attended any overseas meetings in my role as Secretary of State for Scotland and none are planned.

Voluntary Organisations

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many meetings with charities and voluntary groups he has had since his appointment. [153866]

Des Browne: I have had a range of discussions with charities and voluntary groups since my appointment as Secretary of State for Scotland.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Alcoholic Drinks: Licensing

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* off-licensed premises and *(b)* on-licensed premises had their licences revoked for selling alcohol to underage customers in each of the last four years. [159464]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 22 October 2007]:* This information is not held centrally. Past and future statistical bulletins on licences to sell alcohol include the number of licences revoked, but do not indicate why. Licences may be revoked for a number of reasons or a variety of factors, including sales to children.

Broadcasting: Radio

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the *(a)* station name, *(b)* licence area and *(c)* character of service is of each of the radio stations licensed for broadcast in the UK. [160435]

James Purnell: The matter raised is the responsibility of the Regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Digital Broadcasting: Gaelic Language

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the expected cost is of launching the Gaelic digital television service; and what the estimated annual running costs are. [160040]

James Purnell: I understand that the total revenue costs of setting up the channel (including promotion) are expected to be in the region of £1.27 million and the total capital requirements £1.5 million. The annual running costs of the channel, excluding distribution, are estimated to be £17.9 million.

These figures are dependent on the outcome of the BBC Trust's consideration of the proposals which are currently subject to a Public Value Test, as required under the BBC charter and agreement.

Digital Broadcasting: Radio

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of the amount of radio listening which occurs through digital platforms. [159699]

James Purnell: The Department does not collect its own radio listening figures. However, radio listening data compiled by RAJAR for the second quarter 2007 show (a) that 26.2 per cent. of the population (adults15+) listened via a digital platform each week and (b) the total radio listening share by platform was:

Listening via	*Percentage*
AM/FM	66.1
All digital[1]	12.8
Analogue/digital unspecified	21.1

[1] Digital platforms consisting of 7 per cent. listening via DAB, 2.6 per cent. DTV, 1.5 per cent. internet and 1.7 per cent. unspecified.

Licensed Premises: Take-Away Food

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many take-away restaurants which do not sell alcohol have been licensed under the Licensing Act 2003. [159701]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We do not hold this information centrally. The Licensing Act 2003 devolved the administration of the licensing regime to individual licensing authorities, and each licensing authority should hold information about licensed premises in their area.

Rugby

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* ministers and *(b)* officials plan to attend the 2007 Rugby World Cup Final in an official capacity. [159144]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 18 October 2007]:* Both my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I attended the Rugby World Cup Final in an official capacity as guests of the International Rugby Board.

Talented Athlete Programme

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people received funding from the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme in each year in which it has been running; and how much was allocated under the Scheme in each year. [159703]

James Purnell: The Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme (TASS) was introduced in 2004. Details of the number of athletes it has supported and the level of funding are as follows:

	Awards given	*Funding (£ million)*	*Level of awards (£)*
2004-05	920	3	1,500 or 3,000
2005-06	1,233	4	1,500, 3,000 or 10,000
2006-07	1,090	5	3,000 or 10,000

So far this year, more than 600 awards have been given.

In total, 2,714 athletes have received a TASS award during its first three years (as some athletes have received more than one annual award).

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many frontline personnel were casualty evacuations during 12 Brigade's operational tour in Helmand Province. [160227]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 23 October 2007]:* The Relief in Place of 12 Mechanised Brigade is not yet complete. In the period 12 April 2007 to 10 October 2007, 213 personnel were aeromedically evacuated from units of 12 Mechanised Brigade during their operational tour.

During the same period, a further 131 individuals, including UK personnel serving under the wider ISAF force structure, civilians, contractors and other military personnel serving on secondment or attachment with other units deployed to theatre, were aeromedically evacuated.

Both sets of figures include aeromedical evacuation for all reasons, including battle injuries, non-battle injuries, illness and disease.

The MOD publishes casualty details for Afghanistan on its website under the following URL:

http://www.mod.uk/NR/rdonlyres/F777CD49-CC59-456E-A3E8-5E470E37F69C/0/opherrick_casualtytables_15Sept.pdf

Armed Conflict: Death

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what definition he uses of killed in theatre; and whether it is used of those who sustain injuries in theatre but who die later. [159170]

Des Browne: We do not routinely use the term 'killed in theatre'. The operational fatality figures published by the Department include those personnel who died as a direct result of injuries sustained in the operational theatre, but who were evacuated elsewhere prior to their death.

Arms Trade: Treaties

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Treaty between the Government and the US Administration concerning defence trade co-operation includes transfers of component parts for *(a)* national missile defence and *(b)* nuclear weapons systems. [159476]

Des Browne: The detailed arrangements for the Defence Trade Co-operation Treaty are still under negotiation. The Treaty will operate alongside the existing UK export control regime and transfers of controlled components will be subject to the current arrangements. Controls on exports from the United States are a matter for the US Government.

Ballistic Missile Defence

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with the US Administration on the stationing of interceptor missiles at USAF Lakenheath or other US bases in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [160033]

Des Browne: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1116W, to the hon. Member for Harrogate and Knaresborough (Mr. Willis).

Defence

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what strategic military capabilities his Department will seek to develop in the next 10 years. [158383]

Des Browne: Details of the future military capabilities can be found in the 2003 Defence White Paper, "Delivering Security in a Changing World" (Cm 6041-1) and "Delivering Security in a Changing World—Future Capabilities" (Cm 6269) published in July 2004.

We continue to keep future capabilities under review through our regular planning process.

Defence Estates: Official Hospitality

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what factors are taken into account by Defence Estate officials when reviewing in detail the background to a charity event to be held on defence property; what factors were taken into account in carrying out this function in respect of the Sergeant Biddiss Charity event held at RAF Brize Norton; and when officials decided to waive the liability charge for that event. [158302]

Derek Twigg: Each case would be considered on its merits. In the case of the specific event referred to, the main factor considered by officials in deciding to waive the nominal charge was the nature of the charitable event. The decision to waive the liability charge on a Defence Estates license was taken on Friday 30 March 2007.

Departments: Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidance his Department follows on the maximum time taken to respond to hon. Members' correspondence; and what performance against that target was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [158597]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 45W.

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many websites his Department operates; how many it operated at 1 January 2005; and what the estimated annual cost has been of running his Department's websites in the last five years. [157865]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence and armed forces collectively maintain four corporate websites. Identified direct expenditure on running these in the last five years was as follows:

Website	URL	Annual expenditure (£) 2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Ministry of Defence	http://www.mod.uk/	124,350	111,000	127,192	147,000	177, 875
Royal Navy	http://www.royal-navy.mod.uk/	[1]54,000	230,000	197,888	[2]197,000	178,398
British Army	http://www.army.mod.uk	n/a	160,000	96,000	n/a	160,000
Royal Air Force	http://www.raf.mod.uk/	87,500	108,000	121,213	[3]126,860	[4]173,859

n/a=Not available
[1] Cost for site management only
[2] Includes £64,000 cost of running two sites during transition
[3] This was erroneously shown as the cost for 2006-07 in the table—10 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 348W.
[4] Includes cost of re-launch.

In accordance with the Cabinet Office-led programme of website rationalisation, the MOD is progressively reducing the number of other websites maintained by business units within the Department. On 1 January 2005 MOD and the armed forces collectively maintained eight corporate websites, which have now been reduced to the four listed above. In phase one of the Cabinet Office-led web rationalisation programme MOD identified 44 additional sites, which have now been reduced to 31. I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 10 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 348-52W, to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) which gave the costs of running sites in this category in 2006-07. A further 18 sites, now reduced to 17, were identified within the scope of phase 2 of the web rationalisation programme. Further reductions are planned between now and 2010. Costs for these sites could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

In addition, there are numerous individual unit, regiment, charity, sports and recreation sites, which are maintained independently by the organisations in question and are not classed as part of the corporate websites maintained by the Department. Lists of these sites could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Written Questions

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make it his policy, when answering a written question by reference to written answers previously given by him or junior Defence Ministers to hon. Members other than the one tabling the current question, to enclose a copy of the past written answer or answers referred to with the reply. [160088]

Derek Twigg: No.

GCHQ: Electricity

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the alternative arrangements for electricity are at *(a)* GCHQ and *(b)* AWE Aldermaston in the event of a catastrophic failure of the National Grid; and if he will make a statement. [154407]

Derek Twigg: Robust arrangements are in place at AWE to ensure the continued safety and security of operations in the event of the failure of electrical supplies. These include multiple-point connection to the national grid and the capability for on-site electricity generation.

Information on arrangements at GCHQ is a matter for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Iraq: Armed Forces

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 71W, on Iraq: armed forces, what changes were made to plans agreed before the invasion as a consequence of the flexibility to respond to events. [159657]

Des Browne *[holding answer 22 October 2007]:* The details of planning remain confidential. Planning was reviewed on a regular basis and adapted in light of developments on the ground in Iraq.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his estimate is of the number of incidents of intersectional violence in Basra in *(a)* July, *(b)* August and *(c)* September. [157085]

Des Browne *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* Overall reported crime rates for September in Basra remain at a similar level to previous months, and where security incidents have occurred the Iraqi Security Forces have demonstrated their ability to deal with them swiftly and effectively. It is not practicable to determine whether each act of violence is politically or criminally motivated but our assessment is that sectarianism is not a major factor in Southern Iraq.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many times British or coalition military forces have intervened militarily in *(a)* Maysan, *(b)* Dhi Qar and *(c)* Al Muthanna since the handover to the Iraqi Government; [157140]

(2) who will make the decision for any British military intervention in *(a)* Maysan, *(b)* Dhi Qar and *(c)* Al Muthanna; [157141]

(3) under what conditions British forces would be expected to intervene in *(a)* Maysan, *(b)* Dhi Qar and *(c)* Al Muthanna. [157142]

Des Browne: As the Prime Minister outlined in his statement to the House on 8 October, once Basra province has transitioned to Provincial Iraqi Control, UK forces would only re-intervene in any of the provinces within Multi-National Division South East

at the specific request of the Government of Iraq or where action is necessary for the self-defence of coalition forces.

Since Maysan, Dhi Qar and Al Muthanna provinces transitioned to Provincial Iraqi Control, on no occasion have coalition forces been required directly to re-intervene, as the Iraqi security forces have been able to deal with the isolated incidences of violence that have occurred. On occasion, at the request of the Iraqi Government, coalition forces have, however, provided limited support to Iraqi security operations in these provinces.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, how many members of the Territorial Army have been killed in operations in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan since 2003. [158377]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[pursuant to the reply, 17 October 2007, Official Report, c. 1118W]:* I incorrectly stated that the number of Territorial Army personnel killed in Iraq since 2003 was four, the correct figure was five. The error occurred due to a misinterpretation of operational casualty records.

NATO

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the NATO and Egypt Individual Cooperation Programme. [158273]

Des Browne: I am withholding the information as its release would, or would be likely to prejudice international relations.

Territorial Army: Food

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether Territorial Army personnel on weekend training are expected to pay for their meals. [157163]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In general, reserve forces personnel working at their parent unit (or Territorial Army Headquarters) who are in receipt of full-time pay or "over eight hours" daily rate of pay are treated as full-time service personnel and therefore pay for their food. However, personnel on exercise being fed under field conditions do not pay for their food.

Warships: Devonport

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions over the last 12 months Royal Navy ships ported in Devonport have been required to sail to Portsmouth or Marchwood in order to undertake ammunitioning or de-ammunitioning activity. [160124]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: During the past 12 months, ammunitioning or de-ammunitioning support has been provided at HM Naval Base Portsmouth or Marchwood Military Port to five Royal Navy ships that are base-ported at HM Naval Base Devonport.

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions during the last 12 months Royal Navy or Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels have been required to remain outside Devonport harbour and await entry to the port due to tidal window or other movement restrictions. [160125]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Arrival and departure times at Devonport harbour are adjusted regularly to allow vessel movements to take place with the minimum of disruption. Over the last 12 months, only one Royal Navy or Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) vessel, RFA Largs Bay, was required to remain outside of the harbour due to movement restrictions and the availability of berths.

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions over the last two years it was necessary to divert Royal Navy or Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels due alongside in Devonport to other commercial or military ports as a result of tidal window or other restrictions. [160126]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Over the last two years, only one Royal Navy vessel was diverted from HM Naval Base Devonport. In February 2007, HMS Ocean was transferred to HM Naval Base Portsmouth due to the unavailability of a Devonport berth for unplanned defect rectification.

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions during the last 12 months it was necessary to stop Royal Navy or Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessel movements within Devonport harbour as a result of poor visibility due either to fog, rain or high winds. [160127]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Disruption to routine sailings due to adverse weather conditions is not routinely recorded although it is estimated that during the last 12 months there were six occasions when Royal Navy or Royal Fleet Auxiliary movements were disrupted within Devonport harbour as a result of poor visibility due to fog, rain or high winds.

Weapons

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what new *(a)* cluster munitions and *(b)* weapons employing explosive submunitions the Government are in the process of (i) developing and (ii) procuring. [157363]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There is no internationally recognised definition for a cluster munition; this is the subject of ongoing negotiations under UN auspices. However, we have no plans to develop or procure new munitions falling under the UK's current working definition of a cluster munition.

In terms of new weapons that employ submunitions technology, we are developing a Ballistic Sensor Fused Munition—a 155 mm gun-launched shell containing two explosive sub-munitions, each having target detecting sensors and a self-destruct system.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Acceptable Behaviour Contracts: Berkshire

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* acceptable behaviour contracts and *(b)* parenting orders were issued in (i) Reading, (ii) Wokingham and (iii) Berkshire in each year since their introduction. [159510]

Mr. Coaker: Data on acceptable behaviour contracts (ABCs) are not collected by the Home Office as they are voluntary agreements and therefore not suitable for central data collection. However, surveys of crime and disorder reduction partnerships (CDRPs) indicate that over 25,000 ABCs have been made since October 2003. The Home Office recently issued updated and comprehensive guidance for practitioners on the use of ABCs.

Parenting orders are a matter for the Ministry of Justice. However I understand that they were piloted between 30 September 1998 and 31 March 2000 but data showing the breakdown by area are not available for that period. Parenting orders were commenced in England and Wales in June 2000. The Youth Justice Board (YJB) has since April 2000 collected the number of parenting orders by youth offending team ("YOT") area, as reported to it by youth offending teams including education-related orders where the YOT has been involved.

Until April 2007, one YOT covered Reading and Wokingham. Four other YOTs cover the rest of Berkshire. Since September 2004, the Department for Children, Schools and Families has collected data on the number of parenting orders in England related to non-attendance of children at school and exclusion from school at local authority level.

Four parenting orders were made in Berkshire following truancy prosecution between 1 September 2004 and 13 April 2007: two in Reading between 2 September and 31 December 2006; one in West Berkshire between 22 April and 1 September 2006 and one between 2 September and 31 December 2006.

Between 1 September 2004 and 13 April 2007 Berkshire local authorities did not report any applications to the courts for parenting orders in the case of exclusions.

The number of parenting orders relating to crime or antisocial behaviour from April 2000 until March 2007 reported to the YJB by the YOTs in Berkshire are shown in the attached table.

Table A: Parenting orders related to youth offending or anti-social behaviour reported by Berkshire YOTs

	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Bracknell Forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Reading and Wokingham	7	0	3	5	6	5	5
Slough	0	2	4	1	0	0	1
West Berkshire	0	6	1	0	4	2	4
Windsor and Maidenhead	0	3	0	1	0	0	0
Total	7	11	8	7	10	7	10

Animal Welfare: Horses

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to provide security for the Appleby Horse Fair in future; what the outcome of inquiries into events at the last fair have been; and if she will make a statement. [159680]

Mr. Coaker: The policing of the Appleby Horse Fair is an operational matter for the chief constable of Cumbria constabulary. In regard to the drowning of a horse in the River Eden on the first day of the Fair, I understand that this incident is currently being investigated by the RSPCA who are still trying to trace the individual responsible.

Animals Experiments

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of whether the threshold of moderate pain in animal experimentation is being adhered to; [159240]

(2) how the Government defines moderate pain in relation to animal experimentation. [159246]

Meg Hillier: The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 makes provision for the protection of animals used for experimental or other scientific purposes which may have the effect of causing pain, suffering, distress or lasting harm.

Projects licensed under the 1986 Act specify "protocols" which are the means by which the project will be carried out. Each protocol is assigned a severity limit in one of four categories, 'unclassified', 'mild', 'moderate' or "substantial". The severity limit for each protocol is determined by the upper limit of the expected adverse effects that may be encountered by a protected animal, taking into account the measures specified in the licence for avoiding and controlling adverse effects. It represents the worst potential outcome for any animal subjected to the protocol, even if it may only be experienced by a small number of the animals to be used.

A detailed description of each category of severity limit is set out in paragraph 5.42 of the published Guidance on the Operation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 (HC 321). In general terms, the "moderate" category is reserved for protocols in which suffering is effectively controlled or terminated before the animal shows more severe effects. In the case of animals experiencing pain in such protocols, effective analgesia is provided or the protocol is terminated before the animals show more severe effects.

Under standard project licence condition eight, set out in Appendix D to the Home Office Guidance, it is the responsibility of the project licence holder to ensure adherence to the severity limits and if these constraints appear to have been, or are likely to be, breached, the project licence holder must ensure that the Secretary of

State is notified as soon as possible. Veterinary surgeons and animal care staff skilled in the recognition of the severity of signs of suffering or distress in animals are available at each establishment to advise the licensees on when an animal is experiencing or liable to experience more than moderate pain.

The Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate also visit designated establishments where animal experiments are being carried out to determine whether the conditions of licences are being complied with. Inspectors report to the Secretary of State any case in which any provision of the 1986 Act or any condition of a licence or certificate under the 1986 Act has not been or is not being complied with and advise on the action to be taken in any such case. Home Office records show that non-compliance with severity limits is rare.

Arrests: Children

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research has been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by her Department into the numbers of children arrested for alleged violence against another child; and if she will make a statement. [159685]

Mr. Coaker: No specific research has been commissioned by the Home Office into the numbers of children arrested for alleged violence against another child.

Asylum Seekers: Deportation

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to investigate recent reports of abuse of failed asylum seekers during forced removal. [159716]

Mr. Byrne: All allegations of assault are investigated by a team of trained and experienced Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) investigators and are automatically referred to the police. In the event that any allegations of assault are upheld, we would expect the police to pursue criminal charges. The staff concerned would also be subject to disciplinary action by their employers and would have their accreditation as Detention Custody Officers revoked by BIA.

We asked the *Independent* newspaper for sight of the dossier on so that a thorough investigation can be carried out. Despite several follow-up requests, this still has not been passed to us. We continue to press the newspaper.

Asylum: Sandwell

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of asylum seekers living in the Borough of Sandwell. [159467]

Mr. Byrne: Statistics on the location of asylum seekers in the UK are linked to the available information on those asylum seekers who are in receipt of support. The number of asylum seekers in receipt of support are available broken down by Government office region, local authority and parliamentary constituency.

As at the end of June 2007, there were 435 asylum seekers supported in accommodation and 50 in receipt of subsistence only support in Sandwell. These figures exclude any asylum seekers who may be living in Sandwell but are not receiving support, for whom figures are not held.

The number of asylum seekers in receipt of support, broken down by Government office region and local authority, are published on a quarterly and annual basis. Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Further breakdowns, of those in receipt of support by parliamentary constituency, are also available from the Library of the House.

Biometrics

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the most recent percentage failure rates are for biometric *(a)* fingerprint, *(b)* iris scan and *(c)* facial recognition data. [154998]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* In biometric systems, the term 'failure' can be defined in many different ways depending on the specific application. As a result, it is difficult to give a definitive answer to a question such as this.

For instance, in a fully automated biometric access control application it may be preferable to configure the system such that there is a possibility of occasionally allowing access to some unauthorised individuals (false match) than to risk rejecting those who are entitled to it (false non-match).

British Nationality: Applications

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) if she will provide a breakdown of the cost of processing applications for British citizenship; [157092]

(2) if she will list all changes made to the fees required of applicants for British citizenship in the last 10 years; and what the reasons were for any above-inflation increases. [157093]

Mr. Byrne: The costs involved in processing an application for citizenship are detailed in the following tables.

	Naturalisation (£)
From 12 June 1997	150
From 1 January 2004	150
From 1 April 2005	200
From 2 April 2007	575

Fee breakdown 2007

	Naturalisation (£)
Salary costs of staff directly involved in charged casework	55.51
Non-staff direct costs (office admin, accommodation, IT)	53.56

Fee breakdown 2007

	Naturalisation (£)
BIA fixed overhead costs (senior management, HR, finance, cost of capital, depreciation)	47.44
Total BIA costs	156.51

From 2006, BIA began recouping more of the costs of the immigration system from visa charges. Visas that are particularly valuable therefore saw price increases commeasurable with their value. Comprehensive research and consultation demonstrated that British nationality brings many benefits that applicants value very highly, such as, the right to vote in general elections and eligibility to apply for a British passport which provides the holder with the right of free movement throughout the European Union, removing the necessity to apply and pay for visas to visit those countries. We believe this justifies the fact that the fees charged for applications under this route should be greater than for some other routes.

Crime Prevention: CCTV

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of trends in crime levels where CCTV has been introduced; and if she will make a statement. [159264]

Mr. Coaker: Case studies and good practice clearly indicate that CCTV has a role to play in crime reduction and detection.

The most recent Home Office evaluation of CCTV was carried out in 2005. (Gill, M., and Spriggs, A. (2005) Assessing the Impact of CCTV. Home Office Research Study 292. London: Home Office),

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hors292.pdf

The Home Office has no figures available on the extent of, or success of the use of CCTV in the context of the prosecution of offenders who commit offences.

Crime: Arrests

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests relating to crimes committed by members of gangs there were in 2006. [159608]

Mr. Coaker: The arrests data held by the Ministry of Justice only provide information on persons arrested for recorded crime (notifiable offences) by age group, gender, ethnicity and main offence group. Aggregated data, collected centrally from the 43 police force areas in England and Wales, do not record the circumstances of the offence leading to an arrest.

The annual publication 'Arrests for Recorded Crime (Notifiable Offences) and the Operation of Certain Police Powers under PACE, England and Wales' can be found on the Home Office website at:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hasb2105.pdf.

Crime: Homophobia

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many homophobic hate crimes were reported to police forces in England and Wales in *(a)* 2004, *(b)* 2005 and *(c)* 2006. [156758]

Mr. Coaker: From the information collected on recorded crime, it is not possible to identify those offences which are homophobic hate crimes. Such crimes are not specifically defined by statute and details of the individual circumstances of offences do not feature in the recorded crime statistics.

Departments: ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was of buying new *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistant devices for new Ministers in her Department following each Cabinet reshuffle since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [156815]

Mr. Byrne: Information from 1997 to 2005 is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Information from May 2005 is as follows:

	Number of mobile phones purchased	*Cost (£)*	*Number of Laptops purchased*	*Cost (£)*	*Number of personal digital assistant devices/ Blackberrys purchased*	*Cost (£)*	*Total (£)*
2005	6	480	0	0	1	233	720.00
2006	4	295	1	1,664.84	3	699	2,666.84
2007	1	64	1	4,680.84	4	932	4,844.04
Total							8,230.88

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many websites her Department operates; how many it operated at 1 January 2005; and what the estimated annual cost has been of running her Department's websites in the last five years. [157897]

Mr. Byrne: In January 2005, the Home Office operated more than 100 websites across the estate.

As of September 2007, website rationalisation driven by the Transformational Government agenda, the Home Office now operates 34 websites:

the Home Office department website and its sub-domains

19 agency and/or non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs)

14 websites identified as soon or eventually to close under Transformational Government

The estimated annual cost of running all of these websites in any of the last five years, including this one, cannot be compiled without incurring disproportionate costs. However, we know from the NAO report (which surveyed the core Home Office and 13 of its agencies and public bodies) that the Home Office spent £17.9 million on websites in 2005-06.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many staff in her Department have taken *(a)* five or more, *(b)* four, *(c)* three and *(d)* two periods of sick leave of less than five days in the last 12 months. [147054]

Mr. Byrne: The information is shown in the following table.

1	A	F	G	H	I	J
		Number of staff—1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 sickness less than 5 cal or wd per period				
2		*5+ periods*	*4 periods*	*3 periods*	*2 periods*	*Total permanent staff at 31 March 2007*
3	Home Office Headquarters (HQ)					4,712
4	Border and Immigration Agency (BIA)	1,130	1,016	1,996	3,479	17,238
6	Criminal Records Bureau (CRB)	34	29	39	66	378
7	Identity and Passport Service (IPS)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Notes:
1. The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) does not record data in the format requested.
2. The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) have been included in the Home Office figures because it would incur a disproportionate cost to extract NOMS and OCJR data from our figures.

Departments: Standards

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of her Department's public service agreement targets *(a)* take and *(b)* do not take account of rural proofing. [159631]

Mr. Byrne: The PSAs set the Government's top national priorities for the next three financial years. The PSAs that the Home Secretary is responsible for leading are:

Ensure controlled, fair migration that protects the public and contributes to economic growth

Make communities safer

Reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drugs

Reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from international terrorism

Deliver a more effective, transparent and responsive criminal justice system for victims and the public (jointly with the Secretary of State for Justice and the Attorney-General)

In developing the policy which underpins all of our responsibilities including these priorities, we would always aim to fully assess the impact of all our proposals including significant effects on the rural community. Under the new impact assessment process we are required, like all Government Departments, to specifically demonstrate that we have considered rural proofing. All impact assessments are published.

The PSA framework also provides some flexibility for local agencies such as the police, local authorities, local criminal justice boards and regional Border and Immigration Agency directors to set local priorities according to local circumstances including rural needs.

Departments: Visits

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which establishments and offices within the Border and Immigration Agency and the Immigration Detention Estate Ministers in her Department have visited in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [156980]

Mr. Byrne: In addition to everyday contact with Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) staff, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department and the Ministers in her Department, regularly undertake visits to both policy and operational areas across the BIA estate.

In my capacity of Minister of State for Borders and Immigration I have personally made a large number of visits to meet Border and Immigration staff doing their jobs, visiting our detention facilities including Harmondsworth, Colnbrook, Campsfield House; many airports, among them Heathrow, Gatwick, Stansted and Birmingham; the sea ports at Calais, Harwich and Poole, and almost all our local enforcement offices across the country, from Portsmouth to North Shields.

Deportation: Enforcement

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will consider the case of Mr. O.S. (Ref S1202771), who is awaiting the re-issue of asylum refusal papers in order to make an appeal. [155827]

Mr. Byrne: I wrote to the hon. Member on 18 October 2007.

Deportation: Offenders

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many deportation recommendations conducive to the public good were made by *(a)* criminal courts and *(b)* her Department in each of the last six months; how many were appealed against (i) successfully and (ii) unsuccessfully in each month; how many persons were deported in each month; and how many persons are currently awaiting deportation following such recommendations. [157063]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 11 October 2007]:* The information requested could be obtained only by a detailed examination of individual case records at disproportionate cost.

On 14 June the Director General of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote to the Home Affairs Committee to provide the most recent information available on the deportation of foreign national prisoners. In this letter the director reported that 2,784

foreign national prisoners were deported or removed in the financial year 2006-07. A copy of this letter is available from the Library of the House.

Detection Rates: CCTV

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect of CCTV cameras on crime detection in areas where they have been introduced; and if she will make a statement. [159265]

Mr. Coaker: Case studies and good practice clearly indicate that CCTV has a role to play in crime reduction and detection.

The most recent Home Office evaluation of CCTV was carried out in 2005. (Gill, M., and Spriggs, A. (2005) Assessing the Impact of CCTV. Home Office Research Study 292. London: Home Office),

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs05/hors292.pdf

The Home Office has no figures available on the extent of, or success of the use of CCTV in the context of the prosecution of offenders who commit offences.

Entry Clearances

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the average time taken was to process applications for indefinite leave to remain designated as priority cases in the last period for which figures are available; [158966]

(2) what the target timescale is for dealing with applications for indefinite leave to remain designated as priority cases. [158967]

Mr. Byrne: There is no "priority" categorisation of general caseworking indefinite leave to remain applications.

Statistical information on time taken to process applications is not collated as an average.

However the published "General Caseworking Service Standards" and the percentage of general caseworking indefinite leave to remain cases achieving those standards are as follows:

	Service standard[1] (Percentage)	*Within*	*Achieved 2006-07 (Percentage)*
Public Enquiry Office[2]	98	24 hours	91
Postal applications	70	20 working days	72
Postal applications	90	70 working days	92

[1] The service standard is the percentage of cases to be decided within the given timescale.

[2] The Public Enquiry Office provides a rapid turn around service for applicants applying in person for which a premium charged may be made. The majority of applicants apply by post for which a lower charge may be made.

Please note this information has not been quality assured, and is not a National Statistic. It should be treated as provisional management information only.

Entry Clearances: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for indefinite leave to remain were received from individuals domiciled in Peterborough constituency in each quarter since 1997. [159048]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 19 October 2007]:* The requested information is unavailable and could be obtained only by examination of individual case records and therefore at disproportionate cost.

Human Trafficking

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what involvement Tayside and Central Scotland police will have in Operation Pentameter2. [159185]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Department can not answer questions on devolved matters. I suggest that my hon. Friend write to the Scottish Executive who have responsibility for issues relating to Scottish policing.

Human Trafficking: Departmental Coordination

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the next meeting of the Inter-departmental Ministerial Group on Human Trafficking to be held. [160132]

Mr. Coaker: The next Inter-departmental Ministerial Meeting on Human Trafficking will be held in November subject to Ministers' diary commitments.

Identity Cards: Costs

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the costs were of the identity card scheme in each year since 2003-04; what proportion of the set-up costs has been met from existing departmental expenditure limits; and if she will make a statement; [154771]

(2) what estimate she has made of the likely costs of the identity card scheme in each year up to 2012-13; what proportion of the set-up costs she expects to be met from existing departmental expenditure limits; and if she will make a statement. [154772]

Meg Hillier: Between the financial years 2003-04 and 2005-06, £41.1 million was spent by the identity cards programme in total.

Since the merger of the Home Office identity cards programme and the UK Passport Service to create the Identity and Passport Service on 1 April 2006, projects to deliver passports including facial images and fingerprints, identity cards and other improvements have been necessarily combined. As much of the technology and operational processes needed to implement identity cards is also required for the implementation of these new passports, this is the most cost-effective way to deliver these initiatives.

Much of the work conducted by Identity and Passport Service cannot be categorised, both financially and operationally, as contributing towards either the

introduction of passports with facial images and fingerprints or identity cards alone. The work is accounted for as future development projects which in the 2006-07 financial year amounted to £30.9 million.

Section 37 of the Identity Cards Act 2006 requires the Secretary of State to lay a report before Parliament every six months which details an updated figure for the cost of the national identity scheme over the following 10 years. The latest cost report was laid before Parliament on 10 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 24WS and can be found at:

http://www.identitycards.gov.uk/downloads/2007-05-10CostReport.pdf

I would refer the hon. Member to that report. The next cost report will be laid in November 2007.

The costs of issuing passports and identity cards to British Nationals will be predominantly covered by fee income. The final fee schedule for these products has yet to be finalised.

Illegal Immigrants: Prisoners

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign former prisoners were housed in immigration removal centres on 20 July 2007. [154025]

Mr. Byrne: Lin Homer, the chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency wrote to the Home Affairs Committee on 19 February in which she set out the position of foreign national prisoners in the immigration detention estate. She will continue to update the Home Affairs Committee.

Immigration Controls

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which companies are being evaluated as potential service providers for the e-borders programme. [160123]

Mr. Byrne: The e-Borders Programme is in the final and sensitive stages of the procurement process.

The final two bidding consortia are BT Emblem, with its prime sub contractor being BT, and other main subcontractors including Lockheed Martin, Logica CMG, Hewlett Packard, ARINC and Anite. The second consortium is Trusted Borders, with its prime sub contractor being Raytheon, and other main sub contractors including Accenture, Detica, Serco, QinetiQ, Steria and Cap Gemini.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the e-Borders contract to be awarded. [160133]

Mr. Byrne: The e-Borders programme remains in the final period of negotiation ahead of contract award.

Immigration Controls: Marriage

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for certificates of approval for marriage in the UK were received in each of the last six months; how many applications have been *(a)* approved and *(b)* rejected in each of the last six months; and how many applications are outstanding. [157710]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The number of applications for certificate of approval for marriage received in each of the last six months is shown in Table 1.

The number of applications for certificate of approval that were *(a)* approved and *(b)* rejected in the last six months is shown in Table 2.

There are currently 1,389 certificate of approval applications awaiting consideration.

This information has not been quality assured and is not a National Statistic. It should be treated as provisional management information only.

Table 1: The number of applications for certificate of approval for marriage received in each of the last six months—2007

	Number
April	1,723
May	1,695
June	1,496
July	1,373
August	1,298
September	1,311
Total	8,896

Table 2: The number of applications for certificate of approval that were (a) approved and (b) rejected in the last six months—2007

	April	May	June	July	August	September	Total
Approved	1,199	1,014	1,676	1,250	1,052	1,273	7,464
Reject/Refused	360	357	197	149	122	125	1,310
Void/Withdrawn	60	74	118	51	46	46	401
Total	1,619	1,445	1,991	1,456	1,220	1,444	9,175

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the application by Chervonne Cole (reference: CA2768005762/001) for a certificate of approval to be married in the UK will be determined. [157712]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* I wrote to the hon. Member on 24 October advising him that a certificate of approval was sent to Miss Cole on 22 October.

Immigration: Employment

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what means are provided to employers by her Department to enable the checking of the immigration status of prospective employees; and if she will make a statement. [159525]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency provides printed and online information, a telephone helpline and a checking service to support employers in establishing the immigration status of prospective

employees. Employers are advised to comply with current legislation by checking and copying specified documents.

The Border and Immigration Agency employers' helpline offers general advice on preventing illegal working and also acts as a first point of contact for employers concerned about false or forged documents. The Employer Checking Service enables employers to check the work status of individuals whose documents indicate a number of immigration application categories. We continue to review the service and assess how it can be expanded.

The Border and Immigration Agency also conducts a limited number of presentations to employers at their premises on how they can avoid employing illegal migrant workers. All guidance for employers will be revised and published in advance of the new law on preventing illegal migrant working, provided by the Immigration, Asylum and Nationality Act 2006, coming into force.

Mikhail Cherney

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what basis Mikhail Cherney was banned from entering the UK after May 1995; and what factors led to that decision being subsequently reversed. [160567]

Mr. Byrne: It is not Home Office policy to comment or give details of individual cases.

Money Laundering

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place a copy of the special National Criminal Intelligence Service report on money-laundering in the Library. [160385]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 23 October 2007]:* The National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) was subsumed by the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA), when it came into being on 1 April 2006. SOCA's first annual report has been published. NCIS did produce material on money laundering but it was classified and thus was not placed in the House of Commons Library.

National Asylum Support Services: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many private landlord properties in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* Leeds, West were used by the National Asylum Support Service in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [159857]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency have contracts with three private sector companies operating in Leeds. We do not capture the number of properties used throughout a whole year but as of 18 October the three companies were responsible for providing 552 properties in Leeds of which 11 were situated in Leeds, West.

Offenders: Deportation

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many judicial recommendations for deportation of convicted criminals were *(a)* made and *(b)* carried out in each of the last two years. [160192]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested could be obtained by a detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

On 14 June the Director General of the Immigration and Nationality Directorate wrote to the Home Affairs Committee to provide the most recent information available on the deportation of foreign national prisoners. In this letter the Director reported that 2,784 foreign national prisoners were deported or removed in the financial year 2006-07. A copy of this letter is available from the Library of the House.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the practicality of deporting foreign nationals convicted of drugs and gun offences. [160193]

Mr. Byrne: Existing legislation allows the Border and Immigration Agency to deport foreign nationals convicted of firearms and serious drug offences. Our ability to deport foreign criminals will be strengthened further by the automatic deportation provisions in the UK Borders Bill which will create a closer link between criminality and deportation.

Offensive Weapons: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of crime involving knives were reported in each London constituency in each month since April. [158836]

Mr. Coaker: The requested information is not yet available. Data on knife-enabled grievous bodily harm and robbery offences have been collected centrally since April 2007. Figures for 2007-08 will be published in July 2008 in the next annual 'Crime in England and Wales' volume. It will not, however, be possible to provide breakdowns by constituency as data are only collected at force level.

Passports

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which countries she expects to be issuing passports which are not capable of being read by electronic or automated or electronic passport readers when the e-borders system is fully operational. [160171]

Meg Hillier: The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) requires all of its (183) contracting states to begin issuing machine readable passports (MRP) by April 2010. Such passports will be capable of being read by electronic passport readers. Consequently it is anticipated that there will be few, if any, countries not issuing machine readable passports by the time e-borders is fully operational.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the number of passports issued by other countries which are not capable of being read by automated or electronic passport readers. [160172]

Meg Hillier: The number of countries issuing passports that are not capable of being read by automated or electronic readers is relatively small in comparison to the total number of machine readable passports issued worldwide in accordance with the specifications set by the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO).

Protest: Animal Experiments

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government classifies offences committed by organisations that define themselves as pursuing animals' rights as acts of terrorism; and if she will make a statement. [159675]

Mr. Coaker: No animal rights extremist has been charged under the Terrorism Act 2000 or other related terrorism legislation. However, should the activities of animal rights extremists, or any other individual or group, meet the required threshold of terrorism contained within the Act, it is possible that the Terrorism Act 2005 could be used. It is for the police and Crown Prosecution Service to select the most appropriate charge in individual cases.

Rape: Convictions

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to address the differential conviction rates for rape in different police force areas. [157748]

Mr. Coaker: The Criminal Justice PSA for 2008-11 makes clear that Local Criminal Justice Boards should treat the investigation and prosecution of serious sexual offences including rape as a priority. We have recently introduced new arrangements for managing the performance of police forces and the Crown Prosecution Service areas on rape, and have established an operational support team to assist all forces, working with the CPS, to develop effective strategies for the investigation and prosecution of rape.

Specialist Officers and Specialist Rape Prosecutors are now in operation across the vast majority of England and Wales, and we continue to roll out guidance and training for the police, prosecutors and barristers on dealing with sexual offences. We are also working to improve the support provided to victims throughout the criminal justice process, through the expansion of the national network of Sexual Assault Referral Centres and the introduction of Independent Sexual Violence Advisers.

Sexual Offences: Victim Support Schemes

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many rape crisis centres there are in each police force area in England and Wales *(a)* in absolute terms and *(b)* per thousand population. [157762]

Mr. Coaker: There are currently 37 rape crisis centres across England and Wales, affiliated to the national umbrella organisation Rape Crisis England and Wales.

The following table shows the location of each of these rape crisis centre in relation to each police force area. We do not routinely collect information on rape crisis centres per thousand of the population.

There are many other voluntary sector organisations working with victims of rape and sexual assault that are not affiliated to Rape Crisis England and Wales.

Rape crisis centres affiliated to Rape Crisis England and Wales by police force area

Police force area	*Rape crisis centre*
Avon and Somerset	
Bedfordshire	
Cambridgeshire	Peterborough Rape Crisis and Counselling Group
Cheshire	Chester Rape Crisis
	Cheshire and Merseyside Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Centre
Cleveland	Redcar and Cleveland Women's Aid
Cumbria	West Cumbria Rape Crisis
Devon and Cornwall	Cornwall Women's RASAC
Derbyshire	Chesterfield SAIL
	Derbyshire Rape Crisis
Dorset	
Durham	Darlington and County Durham RASACC
Dyfed-Powys	
Essex	Colchester RCL
	South Essex RICC
Gloucestershire	Gloucester Rape Crisis
Greater Manchester	Manchester Rape Crisis
Gwent	
Hampshire	Southampton Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Counselling Service
Hertfordshire	Herts Area Rape Crisis
	Watford Rape Crisis and Sexual Abuse Centre
Humberside	Hull Rape Crisis
Kent	East Kent Rape Crisis
Lancashire	
Leicestershire	Leicester
Lincolnshire	
London Metropolitan	Croydon RASASC
Merseyside	Merseyside RASA Centre for Women
Norfolk	Norwich Rape Crisis
Northamptonshire	Northampton Rape and Incest Crisis Centre
North Wales	North West Wales Rape Crisis
North Yorkshire	
Northumbria	Tyneside Rape Crisis Centre
Nottinghamshire	Nottingham Rape Crisis Centre
South Wales	
South Yorkshire	Barnsley Sexual Abuse and Rape Crisis Helpline
	Doncaster RASACC
	Sheffield Rape Crisis
Staffordshire	Savana (North Staffordshire)
Suffolk	
Surrey	

Rape crisis centres affiliated to Rape Crisis England and Wales by police force area

Police force area	*Rape crisis centre*
Sussex	
Thames Valley	Aylesbury Vale Rape Crisis
	Oxford Sexual Abuse Rape Crisis Centre
	Wycombe Rape Crisis
Warwickshire	
West Mercia	Worcestershire RSASC
West Midlands	Coventry RASASC
West Yorkshire	Bradford Rape Crisis Group
	Kirklees Rape and Sexual Abuse Counselling Centre
Wiltshire	

Work Permits: Health Professions

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1940W, on work permits: health professions, how many work permits were issued to *(a)* doctors and *(b)* nurses from Zimbabwe in each year since 1997. [157703]

Mr. Byrne: The following table shows the number of work permit applications which were issued to Zimbabwean doctors and nurses during the period 1999 to 2006. Data for 1997 and 1998 are not available. There have been no approvals for auxiliary nurses during this period.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Occupation	*Zimbabwe*
1999	
Doctor	[1]—
Nurse	275
Total	275
2000	
Doctor	[2]—
Nurse	1,165
Total	1,165
2001	
Doctor	5
Nurse	1,915
Total	1,925
2002	
Doctor	15
Nurse	2,700
Total	2,715
2003	
Doctor	20
Nurse	2,730
Total	2,755
2004	
Doctor	30
Nurse	2,980
Total	3,010
2005	
Doctor	25
Nurse	2,330
Total	2,355
2006	
Doctor	20
Nurse	1,610
Total	1,630
Total	15,825

[1] Indicates nil.
[2] Indicates one or two.
Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to nearest five.
2. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many work permits were issued to doctors and nurses from Africa by the Government in *(a)* 1997, *(b)* 1998 and *(c)* 1999. [159566]

Mr. Byrne: In 1999, there were 65 work permit approvals for doctors and 1,155 approvals for nurses from Africa. (Figures are rounded to the nearest 5).

Data for 1997 or 1998 are not available.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Regional Government: Ministers

Mr. Beith: To ask the Leader of the House if she will direct regional ministers to answer written parliamentary questions on matters within their responsibility. [159738]

Helen Goodman: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to my answer on 22 October, *Official Report*, column 1W.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Communication Workers Union

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the date was of each meeting held by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department with the Communication Workers Union since 27th June. [159786]

Mr. McFadden: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, departmental officials and I have had two formal discussions with the Communication Workers

Union since 27 June 2007. One took place on the 10 July and the other on the 23 July. Since then there have been a number of informal contacts with the CWU to encourage them to resolve the industrial dispute with Royal Mail through talks.

Departments: Consultants

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will list the contracts his Department signed on a consultancy basis with a net value of more than £20,000 in 2006. [159317]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 18 October 2007]:* Central records indicate that in the financial year 2006-07 the Department spent £40.2 million on consultancy services.

Further information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Unsolicited Goods and Services: Telephones

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on telephone call charges incurred by UK households who receive unsolicited sales calls from overseas; and what estimate has been made of the cost to UK households as a result of such charges. [160439]

Mr. Timms: The Premium Rate Services regulator, PhonePay Plus (formerly known as The Independent Committee for the Supervision of Standards of Telephone Information Services, ICSTIS), estimates that the UK Premium Rate Services (PRS) market, is worth over £1 billion a year and comprises of around 40,000 different services. Most services do not cause any problems but the Government take consumer protection very seriously indeed and we are taking steps to prevent abuse of the system. We work with both PhonePay Plus and Ofcom, the independent communications regulator, to ensure a co-ordinated, effective response to problems as they arise.

Under the Privacy and Electronic Communications (EC Directive) Regulations 2003, no one is allowed to make an unsolicited telephone sales call to a subscriber who has either previously notified the caller that they do not wish to receive such calls or who has been registered with the Telephone Preference Service (TPS) scheme for at least 28 days. Companies with a UK presence are legally required not to call a telephone number which has been registered with the TPS scheme, irrespective of whether the call is made from within the UK or from outside the UK. Such companies lay themselves open to enforcement action if they breach this requirement. The Government have made no estimate of costs to those UK subscribers who return unsolicited sales calls.

The Regulations require prior consent of the customer to those companies that make recorded calls to sell or promote their product or business. Also, the Regulations state that all messages must include the identity of the caller and an address or freephone number at which the caller can be contacted. Where a consumer receives an automated call they have not agreed to, there may have been a breach of the Regulations.

The Information Commissioner's Office has responsibility for the enforcement of the Privacy and Electronic Communications Regulations. PhonePay Plus is the regulator to investigate cases, which involve PRS calls.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Burma: International Assistance

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will provide the *(a)* details and *(b)* conditions of the economic recovery package for Burma that the Prime Minister has proposed to other G7 leaders. [159863]

Mr. Jim Murphy *[holding answer 22 October 2007]:* My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister wrote on 16 October to the UN Secretary-General, G8 and other interested colleagues proposing a meeting on Burma in the margins of the Annual Meetings of the International Financial Institutions in Washington. He proposed discussion on how an economic recovery package might be put together for Burma if sufficient concrete and verifiable steps were to be made along the path to reconciliation and reform.

The meeting took place on 20 October chaired by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development, and attended by Ministers and senior representatives from Canada, Italy, Germany, France, Japan, Thailand, Singapore, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Participants held a preliminary discussion about the role that development assistance could play in the economic assistance of Burma once verifiable steps are made, and how the international community could support change. In the short to medium term this could include establishment of a multi-donor trust fund, an investment conference, support for a process of debt relief and financial and technical support for elections. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development stressed however that any package would be conditional on national reconciliation and would have to complement the efforts to that end of the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy, Professor Gambari.

Chevening Scholarships

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2007 on Chevening scholarships, what criteria are used to determine the number of Chevening scholarships allocated to each country. [159708]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Following the recommendations from the River Path Review of the Chevening programme in 2003, Chevening scholarship allocations have been gradually reprioritised to be more aligned with our international strategic priorities. Allocations are decided annually on a country by country basis. New EU member states' allocations were reduced, further in line with earlier decisions to phase out Chevening for the most recent EU accession states (the A10) by 2008-09. These changes have had to take place incrementally over a number of years to keep step with the capacity of posts to identify good candidates and to manage a larger or smaller programme.

To reflect their strategic significance, the top priority countries (China, India, Indonesia, Brazil, Russia, Nigeria, Egypt, Pakistan, Mexico, Iraq and Turkey) were allocated 40 per cent. of the total funds available for new scholars in 2007-08.

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2007 on Chevening scholarships, what the reasons were for the number of scholarships granted to *(a)* Sri Lanka and *(b)* Malta. [159709]

Mr. Jim Murphy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to him today (UIN 159708).

David Manning: Gifts

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2007, *Official Report,* column 999W, on David Manning: gifts, what the cost was of the dress presented to the US Secretary of State Rice by the UK Ambassador to the US; what guidance he has issued on the presentation of gifts by diplomatic staff to foreign politicians; and if he will make a statement. [160494]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The dress in question was a private gift and was not a charge on public funds. However, more generally any expenditure authorised by diplomatic service staff is governed by the provisions of diplomatic service regulations. This document forms part of diplomatic service terms and conditions which apply to all diplomatic service staff and includes a code of ethics. One of the core values contained in the regulations is to "ensure that public money and other resources are used properly and efficiently".

Far East: Entry Clearances

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to change arrangements for applications for visas at British diplomatic posts in *(a)* Ulan Bator, *(b)* Hong Kong, *(c)* Singapore and *(d)* Shanghai. [160480]

Mr. Jim Murphy: UKvisas will be making some changes to the visa application process in the four cities referred to by my hon. Friend.

Following the launch of biometric data collection for UK visa applicants at our Visa Application Centre (VAC) in Singapore in June and at our Mission in Hong Kong in early October, this process will be implemented at our VACs in China (including Shanghai) and our Mission in Ulaanbataar by early November. All visa applicants will have to apply in person at our respective Missions or VACs to provide their fingerscans and a digital photograph in support of their application.

Applicants in Hong Kong and Ulaanbataar will continue to submit their applications and biometric data at our Missions in those cities, and applicants in Singapore and Shanghai will continue to submit their applications and biometric data at the VACs of our commercial partner, VFS Global Ltd.

It is planned to send the applications from Ulaanbataar and Singapore to Beijing and Kuala Lumpur respectively to be processed. This should have minimal impact on customers.

Iraq: International Assistance

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals the UK has put forward for EU financial, technical and political support for Iraq, including to the Iraqi Neighbours process; and if he will make a statement. [159562]

David Miliband: With France and Sweden, we have jointly proposed that the EU increases high level, political contact with Iraq and provides political support to the Iraq neighbours process. We have also suggested that the EU works closely with the UN in support of UN Security Resolution 1770; identifies targeted development and reconstruction assistance, encouraging good donor co-ordination; responds to the humanitarian situation in Iraq and the region and promotes respect for human rights. These suggestions were discussed at the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council on 15/16 October 2007. The conclusions of that discussion can be found on the EU's website: http://www.consilium.europa.eu/ueDocs/cms_Data/docs/pressData/en/gena/96535.pdf.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 October 2007, *Official Report,* columns 838-9W, on Iraq: peacekeeping operations, whether he has received confirmed reports of counter-terrorist operations by Turkish security forces within Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [159559]

David Miliband: We have no confirmed reports of counter-terrorist operations by Turkish security forces within Iraq.

The UK utterly condemns Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) terrorist attacks in Turkey and strongly supports Turkish efforts to work with the Iraqi government at a national and regional level to tackle the PKK. We continue to believe that this is the most effective way forward.

We encourage the Government of Iraq and the Kurdish Regional government to work with Turkey to address the PKK presence in Northern Iraq.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received representations from the Iraqi government on its intentions to change Iraqi law governing the operation of private security firms within Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [159565]

David Miliband: I have received no representations from the Iraqi government on this matter.

Iraq: Resettlement

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written statement of 9 October, *Official Report,* columns 27-8WS, on Iraq: assistance to locally employed staff,

whether Iraqi nationals who are admitted to the United Kingdom under the Gateway Protection Programme will be subject to the normal annual limit on places available under the programme. [157964]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

In his address to the House on Monday 8 October my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced a review of the Government's assistance to our locally engaged staff in Iraq.

Subsequent to this announcement, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made a written ministerial statement to the House on 9 October which outlined, in more detail, the Government's intention regarding these staff.

The Government's current position is outlined in these two announcements, and there is an undertaking by the Foreign Secretary to announce further details.

Pakistan: Entry Clearances

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the convenience of the location of UK diplomatic posts in Pakistan for people submitting visa applications who have family ties with the UK. [159740]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Applicants for visas to the UK in Pakistan no longer need to travel to our High Commission in Islamabad or our Deputy High Commission in Karachi.

With effect from 27 September 2007 applicants can submit their applications and have their biometric data collected at the Visa Applications Centres run by our commercial partners—Gerry's International (Pvt.) Ltd. located in Islamabad, Lahore, Karachi and Mirpur. The location of these centres reflects demand for UKvisas in Pakistan, in particular from those with family ties in the UK.

Full details of the location of the offices and application procedures are available on the Gerry's International website: www.ukvacpk.com/.

Palestinians: Police

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals the UK has put forward for EU efforts to re-engage and expand the EU mission to support the Palestinian civilian police; and if he will make a statement. [159563]

David Miliband: The UK helped secure EU agreement to the re-engagement and expansion of the EU Police Mission for the Palestinian Territories, and has supported the British Head of Mission's proposals for making rapid improvements to the capacity of the Palestinian Civil Police by providing equipment, training and advice. The UK is contributing to the mission with personnel and equipment, and we are considering further financial contributions to projects that will support the work of the mission. In the longer term we support the mission's plans to drive forward transformation of the Palestinian civil police as part of wider criminal justice and security sector reform.

United Nations: Festivals and Special Occasions

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to mark United Nations Day on 24 October. [159521]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UN is at the forefront of the international community's efforts to maintain international peace and security and address the challenges of the 21st century, such as sustainable development and climate change. The UK is, and will continue to be, one of the UN's strongest supporters.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary had a useful meeting with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 22 October, during which he took the opportunity to congratulate him on UN day. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, issued a short message noting the significance of the date and the UK's ongoing commitment to the UN. This can be found on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) website at:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pagename=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1007029391629&a=KArticle&aid=1188505922392.

I am also pleased to note that the UN Association, a non-governmental advocacy which the FCO supports, will be holding its annual Lobby for the UN event on that day. This is an opportunity to promote dialogue between voters and hon. Members about the UK's contribution to the UN's work.

JUSTICE

Prison Population

7. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the prison population in each year until 2012 and the places needed to accommodate it. [160189]

9. **Andrew Rosindell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the likely size of the prison population in each year until 2012 and the number of places in the prison estate needed to accommodate it. [160194]

Mr. Hanson: The latest prison population projections were published on 31 August 2007 covering the period to June 2014. They offer three estimates of low, medium and high demand assumptions for 2012 ranging from 87,200 to 96,400.

11. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners are being held in police and court cells. [160196]

Maria Eagle: We publish figures for the prison population every Friday. This includes the numbers held in police and court cells. The number of prisoners held in police cells on 19 October was 333. An additional five prisoners were held in police cells under local 'lock-out' arrangements. No prisoners have been held in court cells since the night of 19 June 2007.

Governance of Britain

8. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on 'The Governance of Britain', Cm 7170. [160190]

Mr. Wills: I have had a number of meetings with individuals and stakeholders and my Department has received correspondence from a variety of interested parties following the publication of the Green Paper "The Governance of Britain".

Family Courts

10. **Mr. David Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what conclusions he has drawn from his review of the rules relating to the privacy of family court proceedings. [160195]

Bridget Prentice: Having considered the responses to the 2006 consultation, the Government decided that it should focus on improving the quality and amount of information flowing out of the courts, rather than on who is allowed into the courts. We subsequently issued another consultation paper on 20 June 2007 announcing this approach. The paper also considered whether the rules on disclosure of information from family proceedings should be simplified and whether the identities of children should be protected following the conclusion of proceedings.

The consultation closed on 1 October. We received over 100 responses and are now considering them carefully. This is a complex and difficult area, and we will publish our response once we have had an opportunity to reflect fully on what people have said.

Wiltshire Coroner

12. **Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people are employed by the Wiltshire coroner; and how many military inquests are outstanding at that court. [160197]

Bridget Prentice: The Wiltshire coroner employs one deputy coroner and one assistant deputy coroner. He has two administrative staff employed by Wiltshire county council and, from the end of the month, seven coroner's officers employed by Wiltshire Constabulary. The number of military inquests currently outstanding within the Wiltshire coroner district is 43. The full details will be set out in a written ministerial statement to both Houses on Tuesday.

Armley Prison: Prisoners on Remand

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners in HMP Armley prison are *(a)* on remand for offences related to (i) fine defaulting, (ii) violence, (iii) damage to property, (iv) trafficking and (v) possession of prohibited drugs and *(b)* foreign nationals. [159848]

Mr. Hanson: Data for the number on remand for the detailed offences is not available. The following table shows remand population at Armley by offence group.

Prisoners on remand at Armley (Leeds) prison, 30 June 2007

	All on remand
Violence against the person	65
Sexual offences	23
Robbery	32
Burglary	43
Theft and handling	27
Fraud and forgery	7
Drug offences	42
Motoring offences	1
Other offences	42
Offence not recorded	7
All	287

At the end of June 2007 there were 78 foreign national prisoners at the prison (including sentenced).

It is not possible to be remanded in custody for fine default so the figure for this category is zero.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Criminal Defence Service: First Assist Insurance

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Legal Services Commission remains in contract with First Assist for services relating to the delivery of CDS Direct. [159677]

Maria Eagle: The LSC is in contract with First Assist Ltd. until end October 2007 for the delivery of CDS Direct. After this, CDS Direct will be provided by Bostalls, O' Garras solicitors and the Johnson Partnership solicitors who were all successful in an open competitive tendering process. First Assist's contract with the LSC for the provision of Defence Solicitor Call Centre work will continue until it expires, currently on 31 March 2009.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost of the Legal Services Commission's contract with First Assist with services related to the delivery of CDS Direct was in each of the last six months. [159678]

Maria Eagle: LSC contract with First Assist for April to September 2007 are as follows. These costs include: advisers, supervisors, call costs and VAT.

	£
April	126,345
May	120,850
June	106,493
July	112,428
August	115,418
September	111,775

Democracy: Conferences

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the total cost to the public purse was of the speed dating youth conference held on 9 October *(a)* venue hire and *(b)* payments to external firms; and how many members of the public attended. [159907]

Bridget Prentice: The cost for the venue hire including meals and refreshments was £15,156.12. We are awaiting invoices from schools and youth groups for their travel costs; hence we do not have this information. 143 young people (113 from secondary schools and further education establishments and 30 from primary schools) and over 100 adults from schools, youth groups and youth organisations attended the event.

Driving Offences: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many drivers in the Peterborough constituency lost their licences through disqualification under the penalty points system in the last five years for which data are available; [160217]

(2) how many drivers in Peterborough constituency were given endorsements for speeding offences in the last five years for which figures are available. [160218]

Maria Eagle: Information held by my Department on driving licence disqualifications and endorsements is available at police force area level only and as such the Peterborough constituency cannot be identified within the geographical area covered by the Cambridgeshire police force.

Education: Prisons

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the impact of attaining *(a)* a level 2 qualification, *(b)* a level 3 qualification and *(c)* a degree in prison has on reoffending rates. [155665]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has not made any formal assessment of the impact of attaining qualifications in prison on re-offending rates.

Research sponsored by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) and carried out by the National Research and Development Centre for Adult Literacy and Numeracy ("Rapid Evidence Assessment of Interventions that Promote Employment for Offenders", 2005), found that interventions focused on offenders' skills and employment can make a significant difference to the employment rates of offenders, contributing to a reduction in re-offending.

Human Rights

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 188W, on Departments: publicity, (1) whether the public awareness campaign on human rights will include increasing awareness of the Human Rights Act 1998; [159881]

(2) if he will place in the Library a copy of the plans for the public awareness campaign on human rights. [159882]

Mr. Wills: In his Review of the Implementation of the Human Rights Act published in July 2006, my predecessor, Lord Falconer, committed the Government to "lead a drive to ensure that the public as well as the wider public sector are better informed about the benefits which the Human Rights Act. has given ordinary people, and to debunk many of the myths which have grown up around the Convention rights".

A copy of the report is already in the Library. On 12 May 2007, he wrote to the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Human Rights, reporting the activities undertaken by Ministers in connection with that campaign. I am placing a copy of that letter in the Library.

Legal Services Commission: First Assist Insurance

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what services are being delivered under the contract between the Legal Services Commission and First Assist. [160070]

Maria Eagle: The Legal Services Commission has a contract with First Assist for the delivery of the defence solicitor call centre (DSCC), which processes requests to see a duty solicitor at police stations. From 14 January 2008 it will process all requests for legal advice at police stations.

Under the contract, First Assist have agreed to work with the LSC to run the Criminal Defence Service Direct pilot which provides legal advice by telephone in straight forward cases at police stations until 31 October 2007.

Under its DSCC contract, First Assist is also delivering community legal service direct telephone services for the Legal Services Commission, through which it provides advice about debt, education, benefits and tax credits, employment and housing problems.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the end date is of the contract between the Legal Services Commission and First Assist. [160071]

Maria Eagle: The current contract between the Legal Services Commission and First Assist for the defence solicitor call centre ends on 31 March 2009.

Life Imprisonment

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners are on whole life tariffs; [160135]

(2) how many prisoners have been sentenced to life imprisonment on a whole life tariff in each year since 1997. [160136]

Mr. Hanson: As at 30 September 2007, the number of prisoners with a whole life tariff was 35. There have been 19 prisoners given a whole life tariff since 1997. Details are set out in the table as follows.

	Prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment with a whole-life tariff
1997	0
1998	0
1999	1
2000	1
2001	0
2002	0
2003	0

	Prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment with a whole-life tariff
2004	3
2005	6
2006	5
2007	3

Parliament: Duration

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the merits of the introduction of fixed-term parliaments. [160191]

Bridget Prentice: The Government has not made any recent assessments of the merits of introducing fixed term parliaments.

However, the Government are currently taking forward a wide-ranging constitutional debate.

Prison Accommodation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1160W, on prison accommodation, whether any modular temporary prison units will be withdrawn in the next five years. [160566]

Mr. Hanson: The condition surveys mentioned in the answer of 17 October 2007 are currently being undertaken to establish the condition of modular temporary units provided in the years 2002-03 and 2003-04 and a forecast of each one's remaining life. Until a report on these surveys is received, a prediction cannot be given but early indications are that none will need replacing before 2010.

Prison Sentences

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many sentenced receptions there were in prisons in England and Wales for offences related to *(a)* violence against persons *(b)* sexual offences, *(c)* burglary, *(d)* robbery, *(e)* theft, *(f)* fraud and forgery, *(g)* criminal damage, *(h)* motoring offences, *(i)* drug offences and *(j)* other offences in each of the last five years. [159846]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the number of sentenced prisoner receptions in England and Wales by main offence group over the last five years for which figures are available:

Offence group	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Immediate custodial sentence	90,523	93,615	92,245	93,326	90,414
Violence against the person	13,835	13,596	13,724	15,735	16,744
Sexual offences	2,372	2,449	2,350	2,551	2,452
Robbery	4,060	4,812	4,368	4,372	3,894
Burglary	9,889	10,178	9,191	8,434	7,550
Theft and handling	22,336	22,590	21,335	19,561	17,880
Fraud and forgery	2,988	2,966	2,982	3,175	4,062
Drug offences	7,522	7,276	7,135	7,153	7,060
Motoring offences	14,507	15,039	15,802	14,322	12,326
Other offences	11,543	12,727	13,790	16,568	17,498
Offence not recorded	1,671	1,982	1,568	1,455	948

Criminal damage is included under "other offences".

This information is available in table 7.2 of the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2005, a copy of which is placed in the House of Commons Library. The 2006 volume will soon be made available.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners in England and Wales had sentences which were of *(a)* under three months, *(b)* three to six months, *(c)* six months to a year, *(d)* one year to two years, *(e)* two years to three years, *(f)* three years to four years, *(g)* four years to five years, *(h)* five years to 10 years, *(i)* 10 years to less than life and *(j)* life and at the pleasure of the Secretary of State on the latest date for which figures are available. [159847]

Mr. Hanson: The figures requested are published as table 8.19 of the

offender management caseload statistics, 2005, and are available from the Library of the House of Commons.

The following table has been extracted from the published data. It gives the

sentenced prison population by sentence length band for all prison establishments in England and Wales as at 30 June 2005:

	Number
All sentence lengths	62,179
Up to and including three months	1,882
Over three months up to and Including six months	4,127
Over six months less than 12 months	2,225
12 months	1,778
Over 12 months up to and Including 18 months	3,510
Over 18 months up to and including three years	11,344
Over three years less than four years	4,996
Four years	3,900
Over four years up to and including five years	6,773
Over five years up to and including 10 years	12,458
Over 10 years less than indeterminate	3,305
Indeterminate	5,882

The equivalent table for 200 will be available later in 2007.

A less detailed breakdown by sentence length is available for August 2007 at table 1 of the monthly published tables available at my Department's website.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prison Service: Corruption

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1684W, on the Tasker inquiry, when he expects the final report to be submitted. [159976]

Maria Eagle: The Tasker report was initially submitted to the commissioning authority, with an invitation to seek clarification if required, on 16 September 2007. Following this, a meeting look place seeking clarification on a small number of points, and the final report was submitted on 1 October 2007. This process is in accordance with Prison Service Order 1300—Investigations.

Prisoners

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners in England and Wales are in immediate custody for offences related to *(a)* fine defaulting, *(b)* violence, *(c)* damage to property and *(d)* trafficking or possession of prohibited articles. [159849]

Mr. Hanson: At the end of August 2007 there were *(a)* 71 sentenced prisoners in custody in all prison establishments in England and Wales for fine defaulting; *(b)* there were 18,089 sentenced prisoners for all offences of violence against the person; no separate figures are available for the categories in *(c)* and *(d)*; the following table gives the figures as at 31 August by standard available offence category for all prison establishments in England and Wales:

All prisoners	*Immediate custodial sentence*
All prisoners	85,942
Violence against the person	18,089
Sexual offences	7,394
Robbery	8,573
Burglary	7,871
Theft and handling	3,664
Fraud and Forgery	1,799
Drug offences	10,592
Motoring offences	1,455
Other offences	6,162
Offence not recorded	343

These figures are available at the published monthly statistics website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: Children

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many serving prisoners have children; and how many children have a parent currently serving a prison sentence. [160118]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the family responsibilities of prisoners is not collated centrally. Some information is available from a survey of 1,945 prisoners undertaken in 2003, 45 per cent. of all prisoners had dependent children (including step-children) aged 17 and under; 50 per cent. of women prisoners; 20 per cent. of young offenders (males between 18 and 20); and 48 per cent. of adult males.

Prisoners: Fingerprints

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost of determining how many prisons fingerprint inmates on reception; and if he will make a statement. [159831]

Mr. Hanson: The cost of determining how many prisons fingerprint prisoners is not held centrally and would require each prison to be contacted to detail their practices at a disproportionate cost.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Conservative Party: Publications

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many copies *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* the Prime Minister's Office holds of the Conservative party's policy review group reports. [160060]

Edward Miliband: A list of publications held by the Department is not maintained centrally.

Therefore, the information could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Policy

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what policy changes his Department has implemented since 27 June 2007. [159294]

Edward Miliband: My Department has implemented a number policy changes since 27 June 2007, including:

A public service agreement aimed at reducing social exclusion amongst the most vulnerable adults and the service transformation agreement which aims to ensure public services meet the individual needs of the citizen.

The future role of the third sector in social and economic regeneration: final report' which sets out a new strategy for the Government's partnership with the third sector. (24 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 50WS).

Revised guidance on honours aimed at increasing the number of honours going to people working at local level in the community.

Olympic Games: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what preparations have been made for handover ceremonies at Beijing 2008; how much money has been set aside for such ceremonies; and how much has so far been spent. [156944]

Tessa Jowell: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic games and Paralympic games (LOCOG) is a privately funded commercial organisation. Due to commercial sensitivities, particularly with regards to ensuring that LOCOG is in a position to ensure value for money from suppliers and contractors, the final budgets for the Cultural Olympiad have not been published.

LOCOG is currently developing plans for the Beijing handover ceremony and complementary handover events to mark the occasion within the UK.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what proportion of the Cultural Olympiad budget is allocated to Tier 1 events; and how much has already been spent. [156945]

Tessa Jowell: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic games and Paralympic games (LOCOG) is a privately funded commercial organisation, and due to commercial sensitivities, particularly with regards to ensuring that LOCOG is in a position to ensure value for money from suppliers and contractors, the budgets for the handover ceremonies have not been published.

Tier 1 events, which will be paid for from within the overall £2 billion revenue budget of LOCOG, are those included in the Mandatory Ceremonies programme.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the cost has been of developing the Olympic canoeing facilities at Broxbourne that have now been cancelled, broken down by main column heading. [157733]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* Site investigations are ongoing on the planned Spitalbrook site in Broxbourne. As announced, an alternative site is now being considered due to the risk of contamination on the original site. Overall costs for the canoeing facilities will be disclosed in due course.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what progress has been made in constructing facilities for shooting sports at the 2012 Olympic Games. [159570]

Tessa Jowell: Construction of the temporary shooting facility at Woolwich Arsenal is not due to start before 2010.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister for the Olympics to what uses the shooting facilities being constructed for the 2012 Olympic Games will be put following the games. [159571]

Tessa Jowell: The shooting facilities at Woolwich Arsenal will be temporary facilities which may be designed and constructed with a view to them being reusable and relocatable. These venues will have the potential to be re-configured for a wide range of uses. They could be used for light industry, warehousing, and storage of a wide range of goods and materials including large machinery, foodstuffs and supplies.

Decisions on the precise legacy use of the temporary venues have yet to be taken.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the estimated cost is of the shooting facilities required for the 2012 Olympic Games. [159572]

Tessa Jowell: Detailed information about construction costs is commercially sensitive and cannot be issued at present.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what accounts directions were issued by her Department in financial year *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [156673]

Mr. Dhanda: Under the Government Resource and Accounts Act 2000 HM Treasury issue accounts directions to Departments, pension schemes and agencies and under the Government Trading Fund Act 1973 to trading funds.

For the years 2005-06 and 2006-07 the Department has issued accounts directions for the form and content of resource and other accounts to the following sponsored bodies:

(a) 2005-06

Audit Commission;
Commission for the New Towns;
Housing Corporation;
Standards Board for England;
Stonebridge Housing Action Trust;
Thames Gateway Development Corporation;
Thurrock Development Corporation;
Urban Regeneration Agency;
Valuation Tribunal Service;
West Northamptonshire Development Corporation.

(b)2006-07

Audit Commission;
Commission for Equality and Human Rights;
Commission for the New Towns;
Commission for Racial Equality;
Equal Opportunities Commission;
Firebuy Ltd;
Housing Corporation;
Independent Housing Ombudsman;
Standards Board for England;
Stonebridge Housing Action Trust;
Thames Gateway Development Corporation;
Thurrock Development Corporation;

Urban Regeneration Agency;

Valuation Tribunal Service;

West Northamptonshire Development Corporation.

Departments: Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department follows on the maximum time taken to respond to hon. Members' correspondence; and what performance against that target was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [158599]

Mr. Dhanda: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 45W.

Departments: Manpower

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of employees in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by her Department are above state retirement age. [158935]

Mr. Dhanda: On 30 September 2006 there were: 40 members of staff (1.2 per cent.) in the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) Centre and CLG staff in the Government Office Network; fewer than five (less than 1 per cent.) in the Planning Inspectorate; and 10 (0.7 per cent.) in Ordnance Survey who were over the state retirement age.

The information requested is not available for the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, the Fire Service College or non-departmental public bodies.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent by her Department on official hospitality in the last 12 months. [158932]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department spent £307,845 on hospitality in the last 12 months from 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2007.

All expenditure on hospitality is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Government Accounting and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departments: Policy

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what policy changes her Department has implemented since 27 June 2007. [159286]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department has implemented a number of new policies since 27 June 2007. Parliament has been kept fully informed of these changes. Some key examples are as follows:

On 19 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 59WS, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced the publication of an 'empowerment action plan' which sets out how the Government will deliver on their commitment to bring about greater devolution and empower communities;

On 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 47WS, my hon. Friend the Minister for Housing, announced a new regulator for social housing following the Cave review;

On 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 25WS, my hon. Friend the Minister for Housing, issued a written ministerial statement on planning charges and the planning gain supplement;

On 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 68WS, my hon. Friend the Minister for Local Government, made a written ministerial statement on unitary local government;

On 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 580-3, my hon. Friend the Minister for Housing made an announcement in the House about the publication of the Green Paper on Housing;

On 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 161-2, my hon. Friend the Minister for Local Government, made an announcement in the House on the conclusions of the review of sub-national economic development and regeneration.

Departments: Redundancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost was of redundancies in the Department in the 12 months preceding *(a)* 30 June 2004, *(b)* 30 June 2005 and *(c)* 30 June 2006. [159872]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) was created following the machinery of government changes on 5 May 2006.

The following table sets out the total expenditure on early severance or early retirement for CLG and its predecessor Department the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM).

Early severancelearly retirement costs

Department	*Year ending 30 June*	*Cost (£ million)*
ODPM	2004	2.3
ODPM	2005	5.2
CLG	2006	8.0

The costs shown reflect the demands of resource accounting, so, as well as payments made in the 12 months' period, also include the liability cost for payments due in later years until those leavers aged over 50 at departure, reach pension age.

Departments: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 24W, on departments: redundancy pay, what the *(a)* average, *(b)* highest and *(c)* lowest redundancy payment was; what the budget was for redundancies in that period; and how many redundancies were (i) voluntary and (ii) involuntary. [159868]

Mr. Dhanda: Pursuant to the answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 24W, on departments: redundancy pay, for the central part of the Department for Communities and Local Government, during the 12 months to 30 June 2007:

(a) average redundancy payment was £107,000;

(b) highest redundancy payment was £479,000; and

(c) lowest redundancy payment was £3,000.

The costs reflect the demands of resource accounting, so, as well as payments made in the 12 months' period, also include the liability cost for payments due in later years until those leavers aged over 50 at departure, reach pension age.

The budget for redundancies in that period was £21.8 million.

The redundancies comprised (i) 190 voluntary cases and (ii) 13 involuntary cases.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 24W, on departments: redundancy pay, what the reasons were for the level of redundancy payments; and if she will make a statement. [160295]

Mr. Dhanda: The reasons for these redundancy payments were the work the individuals were doing was no longer required and it was not possible to redeploy them, and to achieve staffing reductions in order to keep future spending within budgets.

Fire Safety Order 2006

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the impact of the Fire Safety Order 2006 on the intended outcome of the integrated risk management policy introduced in 2003. [159028]

Mr. Dhanda: The risk-based approach to fire safety in non-domestic premises required by the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 supports and complements the wider risk-based approach that has been taken with the development of Integrated Risk Management Plans. The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order reflects the risk based approach established by the Fire Precautions (Workplace) Regulations 1997 (as amended), which implemented two European directives in respect of health and safety at work.

The Department will, as a matter of good practice, evaluate the impact of its policy relating to fire safety.

Fire Services

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the effects of introducing regional call handling centres for fire emergencies; and if she will make a statement. [159029]

Mr. Dhanda: FiReControl will deliver a resilient national network of control centres that will back each other up during large scale emergencies. It will also provide more information to firefighters to enable them to better deal with incidents.

In terms of call handling, the system will be designed to match or exceed current performance levels. Extensive modelling has been done to ensure proposed staffing levels will be sufficient for this to be achieved. We are reviewing recent flooding events to ensure that all lessons learned are fully incorporated into the new control centres.

First Time Buyers: Mortgages

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of the average *(a)* buyer's income and *(b)* first time buyer's income went into mortgage payments in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) the latest year for which figures are available. [157469]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data on the average proportion of a household's declared income that is used for their mortgage payment for the UK is available from the Regulated Mortgage Survey and is shown in following table.

Mortgage payments as percentage of household income, England

	First time buyers	*All buyers*
1997	17.9	17.1
2006	21.5	19.7

Source:
Regulated Mortgage Survey

Housing Market

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the most recent *(a)* actual and *(b)* estimated outputs are for (i) demolitions, (ii) repairs, improvements and refurbishments and (iii) new builds in each of the housing market renewal pathfinder areas in (A) 2004-05, (B) 2005-06, (C) 2006-07, (D) 2007-08 and (E) 2008-09. [157678]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table provides information on the number of demolitions, refurbishments and new builds funded in full or in part by housing market renewal funding (HMRF) as part of the local programmes led by councils and partners to address housing problems in their areas. The figures for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 are actual. Estimated figures for 2007-08 are derived from the targets in the pathfinders' funding agreements for this year. It is not yet possible to estimate outputs for 2008-09.

The variation in outputs between pathfinders is partly explained by the different sizes of the programmes and how long they have been running. There is also a wide variety in approaches taken depending on the particular problems faced in each area and the wishes of each individual community affected.

	New build				*Repairs, improvements and refurbishments*				*Demolitions*			
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08[1]*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08[1]*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08[1]*
Birmingham Sandwell	47	62	52	30	10	6,115	518	1,498	71	306	60	88
East Lancashire	0	0	16	0	674	830	336	415	311	331	309	434

	New build				Repairs, improvements and refurbishments				Demolitions			
	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08[1]	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08[1]	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08[1]
Hull and East Riding	0	0	44	32	0	0	20	470	0	147	92	64
Manchester Salford	0	0	127	464	4,304	2,418	2,367	866	571	454	755	645
Merseyside	6	11	321	622	2,404	5,383	873	1,485	110	185	256	431
Newcastle Gateshead	9	11	66	120	232	433	1,692	1,482	409	506	258	216
North Staffordshire	0	0	0	50	139	1,408	846	1,000	234	62	215	400
Oldham Rochdale	0	0	106	165	832	1,059	278	240	78	164	164	218
South Yorkshire	0	2	176	1,158	760	1,155	1,751	3,241	1,105	627	525	475

[1] Estimate

Note:

The outputs in the table are only those that are funded directly by HMRF. The pathfinders have played a part in generating significant additional outputs through the contributions of partners, principally local authorities, RSLs and the private sector, in related and complementary interventions in housing market renewal areas.

Housing: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people have received the disabled facilities grant in the last 12 months. [158050]

Mr. Iain Wright: According the data provided by the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix, there were an estimated 37,972 recipients of the disabled facilities grant in 2006-07.

Housing: Low Income

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on building new affordable homes for rent in the most recent period for which figures are available; how many homes were built in each of the last 15 years; and how many are planned to be built in each of the next three years. [157727]

Mr. Iain Wright: In 2006-07 the Housing Corporation spent over £1.4 billion on the provision of social rented homes through their affordable housing programme.

The following table shows the number of additional social rented homes provided between 1991-92 and 2006-07 through Housing Corporation investment and other sources such as local authorities and Section 106 agreements without grant. These figures include homes provided through both new build and acquisition and refurbishment.

	Number
1991-92	25,705
1992-93	57,023
1993-94	48,941
1994-95	52,190
1995-96	56,949
1996-97	42,465
1997-98	35,780
1998-99	33,579
1999-2000	28,794
2000-01	27,087
2001-02	26,810
2002-03	23,955
2003-04	22,661
2004-05	21,029
2005-06	23,411
2006-07 (provisional)	25,844

We have a target to deliver 30,000 social rented homes in 2007-08, of which the Housing Corporation is expected to provide 28,000.

Our recent Housing Green Paper announced, on 23 July, that we are increasing the supply of new affordable housing in England to at least 70,000 homes a year by 2010-11 of which 45,000 homes will be for social rent. This will be supported by an investment in affordable housing of £8 billion over the next three years, initially through the Housing Corporation and then through the new homes and communities agency.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the social housing waiting list of Peterborough city council was on 1 October in each year since 1997. [160803]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information is not collected as at 1 October. Local authorities in England report the numbers of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns.

I refer the hon. member to the answer I gave him on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 5-52W.

Housing: Renewable Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what her Department's timetable is for finalising the Climate Change Planning Policy Statement; and if she will make a statement; [159368]

(2) when she expects the Climate Change Planning Policy Statement to be published. [159377]

Yvette Cooper: As stated in our White Paper "Planning for a Sustainable Future" we propose to finalise the Planning Policy Statement by the end of 2007.

Local Government: Northern Region

Mr. Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what meetings on local government reorganisation in the northern region have been attended by the Minister for the North East. [159737]

Mr. Dhanda: Over the summer recess, the Minister for the North East has formally met the leaders of every strategic local authority in the north-east, or their representatives, and has met individual councillors from district authorities in Northumberland and Durham. No meeting has exclusively discussed the local government reorganisation. The Minister has also discussed the issue with senior public servants in the region.

Local Government: Publications

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy for local government public documents to be provided in English-language versions only. [158887]

Mr. Dhanda: The planned guidance on translation for local authorities and public bodies will set out steps local authorities can take to ensure they only translate where necessary and will put a greater focus on promoting English. It will be for local authorities to achieve the right balance in their areas.

Regional Government: Ministers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff support each of the Ministers for the Regions in their regional roles, broken down by grade; what the engagements of each Minister were from the date of their appointment to 1 October 2007; over what budget for 2007-08 for each region each Minister has control; what each Minister's regional responsibilities are; and what the cost is of the staff of each Minister. [159271]

Mr. Dhanda: The role of Regional Ministers is set out in paragraphs 115 to 118 in "The Governance of Britain" and their responsibilities include:

- Advising the Secretaries of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and Communities and Local Government on the approval of regional strategies
- Representing regional interests in the formulation of central Government policy relevant to economic growth and sustainable development in areas that have not been devolved to the regional development agencies (RDAs)
- Facilitating a joined up approach across Government Departments and agencies to enable effective delivery of the single regional strategy
- Promoting achievement of the Government's Regional Economic Performance objective
- Championing the region at high level events and with regard to high profile projects, and
- Representing the Government with regard to central Government policy at regional select committee hearings and at parliamentary debates focused specifically on the region.

Regional Ministers do not have control of a specific budget. Alongside their departmental private offices, Government offices also provide support for the Regional Ministers. This varies from one to 3.5 full-time equivalent staff, across the grade scale, depending on the requirements of the Minister at the time.

Regional Ministers are currently developing a forward plan of events for the coming year. From the date of their appointment up until 1 October they have attended a variety of engagements including meetings with the heads of regional development agencies, regional assemblies, local government and the business sectors on the outbreaks of foot and mouth disease and the flooding that affected many of the regions and other region-specific issues.

Religion

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her criteria are for assessing the effect of the activities of *(a)* Muslim and *(b)* other community organisations on tackling extremism and promoting shared values. [159866]

Mr. Dhanda: As stated in the PSA 26 ("reduce the risk to the UK and interests from international terrorism"), the objective of the PREVENT strand of the Government's counter-terrorism strategy is to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremism.

Within this, the Department leads on work to enable local communities to be able to challenge robustly ideas of those extremists who seek to undermine our way of life, set out in the Preventing Violent Extremism Action Plan published in April 2007. Key to this is the building of strong communities, confident in themselves, open to others and resilient to violent extremism.

Planning Authorities: Renewable Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what advice her Department is giving to local planning authorities wishing to adopt a Merton planning rule requiring onsite renewable energy; and what changes have been made to that advice since the written ministerial statement of 8 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 33WS, on PPS22; [159370]

(2) whether it is Government policy that all local planning authorities should require on site renewable energy installations in all major new developments; and if she will make a statement. [159374]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 860-61W.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what her Department's estimate is of the total cost to local planning authorities of developing Merton planning rules as directed by the Housing Minister in the written ministerial statement of 8 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 33WS, on PPS22; [159379]

(2) what her Department's estimate is of the amount of time spent by officials and inspectors in her Department in promoting the Merton rule as required by the written ministerial statement of 8 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 33WS, on PPS22; [159380]

(3) what her Department's estimate is of the total cost to the public purse of promoting the Merton rule as required by the written ministerial statement of 8 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 33WS, on PPS22; [159381]

(4) what advice planning inspectors are giving to local planning authorities who wish to adopt Merton rules requiring on site renewable energy in their local development frameworks; [159391]

(5) what steps she is taking to ensure that the written ministerial statement of 8 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 33WS, on PPS22, is implemented in full. [159392]

Yvette Cooper: The Department wrote to all planning authorities enclosing a copy of my June 2006 statement and in doing so underlined that those authorities which had not yet taken steps to include such policies in their plans should do so at the next available opportunity. Government Offices are active in their regions in encouraging planning authorities to bring forward local development documents in line with national policies.

All inspectors who will undertake the examination of development plan documents have also had the statement drawn to their attention. An inspector will check that a planning authority has prepared a development plan document legally and test whether it is 'sound'. In doing so, the Inspector will consider whether the document is consistent with national planning policy. After the examination, the Inspector will produce a report with recommendations which will be binding on the authority.

No estimates have been made of the costs to local authorities of developing local policies on the use of on-site renewable energy, or of the time invested by officials in encouraging such policies, or of the proportion of the time spent by inspectors in their examination of development plan documents that is attributable to such policies. These estimates could only be assembled at a disproportionate cost.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions she has had with her ministerial colleagues in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the role of the Merton Rule in delivering the Government's microgeneration strategy; and if she will make a statement. [157357]

Yvette Cooper: We work closely with colleagues in the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on both the regulatory framework for planning and planning policies. Our shared objective is for the planning system to give effective support to the Government's energy policies set out in the Energy White Paper and to sectoral strategies, including on microgeneration.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many non-governmental organisations opposed the continuation of the Merton planning rule in their responses to the December 2006 consultation on the climate change planning policy statement; [159339]

(2) what percentage of respondents to the December 2006 climate change planning policy statement consultation objected to the Merton planning rule requiring onsite renewable energy in all major new developments; and what percentage of respondents to the consultation objected to the rule on grounds of cost. [159340]

Yvette Cooper: The consultation draft of the planning policy statement (PPS): planning and climate change sought views on the proposal that local planning authorities should ensure that a significant proportion of the energy supply of substantial new development is gained on-site and renewably and/or from a decentralised, renewable or low-carbon, energy supply. Of the 324 consultation responses received, 52 per cent. of respondents agreed with this approach and 6 per cent. disagreed. No non-governmental organisation disagreed with the approach.

The report of consultation on the draft PPS was published on 23 July 2007 and is

available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/climate-report

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will list the representations she has received on the Merton Rule since January 2007; [159336]

(2) what representations her Department has received from the UK microgeneration industry on the Merton planning rule; and if she will make a statement; [159338]

(3) what steps her Department has taken since March 2007 to consult the UK's onsite renewable energy industry on the future of the Merton planning rule. [159369]

Yvette Cooper: In response to our consultations on the draft planning policy statement on climate change and building a greener future we received a range of representations on the role of planning in securing local low and zero carbon energy use in new development. The reports of the consultations are available on the Department's website. We have continued the dialogue with stakeholders, including with the micro-generation and on-site renewables industry, on the development of our planning policies on climate change.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what advice she has received from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the role of the Merton planning rule in delivering the Government's micro-generation strategy; and if she will make a statement; [159344]

(2) what discussions the Housing Minister has had with the Energy Minister about the Merton planning rule and its role in delivering the Government's microgeneration strategy. [159387]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Chesterfield (Paul Holmes) today (PQ 157357).

Renewable Energy: Greater London

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many developments in Greater London have been built with onsite renewable energy as a result of the Merton planning rule; and what the average change has been in the level of carbon dioxide emissions attributable to such a development. [159343]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received from the Greater London Assembly on the future of the Merton planning rule; and if she will make a statement. [159385]

Yvette Cooper: The Greater London Assembly responded to the draft Planning Policy Statement: 'Planning and Climate Change' that was published for consultation in December 2006. Their response welcomed the proposal that local planning authorities should ensure that a significant proportion of the energy supply of substantial new development is gained on-site and renewably and/or from a decentralised, renewable or low-carbon, energy supply.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what date the London Borough of Merton adopted its planning rule requiring onsite renewable energy; and how many appeals there have been by developers against decisions under that rule since its adoption. [159386]

Yvette Cooper: The policy that

"all new non residential developments above a threshold of 1,000 sq m will be expected to incorporate renewable energy production equipment to provide at least 10 per cent. of predicted energy requirements"

was adopted by the London borough of Merton in October 2003 in its Unitary Development Plan. Since the Plan was adopted three appeals relating to major developments have been received by the Planning Inspectorate following refusals by the London borough of Merton. According to our records none of these appeals were against decisions under the on-site renewables policy.

Sleeping Rough: West Yorkshire

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of rough sleepers in *(a)* Leeds and *(b)* West Yorkshire on the most recent date for which figures are available. [159853]

Mr. Iain Wright: Estimates of the number of people sleeping rough were submitted by local authorities in their 2007 Housing Strategy and Statistical Appendix returns. These returns were based on the results of recent local authority street counts (or estimates in areas which have not conducted a recent street count) and recorded one rough sleeper in Leeds and four in the West Yorkshire region as a whole.

Thames Gateway

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what response she has made to the recommendation made by the Williams Commission in its report, Quality First: The Commission on Design of Affordable Housing in the Thames Gateway, that the Planning Inspectorate should send a stronger message to developers and local authorities that low quality in the design of housing schemes is a legitimate basis upon which planning applications should be refused. [160076]

Mr. Iain Wright: The independent report by the Williams Commission was commissioned by the Housing Corporation and as such the Government do not intend to make a formal response. However, the report makes a very valuable contribution to the debate on urban design and affordable housing and the Department has considered the recommendations aimed at central Government carefully.

The planning system already allows for planning applications to be turned down on design grounds. Planning inspectors take decisions on planning appeals in accordance with design policies in the development plan and published Government policy. The Department supports the work that the Planning Inspectorate (with help from the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment) are already doing to promote good design and ensuring their inspectors are fully trained on design issues. This is supported by guidance including By Design: Urban Design in the Planning System.

The Government have set out their design policy in planning policy statement 3: Housing (November 2006). The Housing Green Paper (July 2007) set out the next steps: that we will work on design quality metrics to ensure that we have sufficiently robust and flexible measurement systems for design quality, to ensure that local authorities are able to monitor progress in achieving higher quality, and to continue to raise the design skills levels of key professionals.

Training: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding was allocated from her Department's budget for the *(a)* Pathways to Work and *(b)* Train to Gain programmes in 2006-07. [157463]

Mr. Dhanda: There is no record on the Department's central financial systems of any such funding during 2006-07.

HEALTH

Care Homes

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations his Department has received from *(a)* NHS staff and *(b)* other interested parties on (i) NHS continuing care and (ii) NHS-funded nursing care relating to the changes to long-term care funding introduced on 1 October. [160266]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department received 499 responses to the consultation on continuing healthcare and NHS-funded nursing care. The list of respondents was included in the response to consultation, which was published on 26 June 2007. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Community Care: Finance

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many local authorities only fund social care at a critical level of need; and how many sufferers from *(a)* multiple sclerosis, *(b)* epilepsy and *(c)* Alzheimer's had requests for care funding turned down between (i) 2005 and 2007 and (ii) 2001 and 2005. [159141]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally.

Departments: Public Bodies

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list his Department's *(a)* executive agencies, *(b)* executive non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs), *(c)* advisory NDPBs, *(d)* tribunal NDPBs, *(e)* trading funds and *(f)* public corporations in each financial year since 2005-06. [156677]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on all the Department's Public Bodies is published annually by the Cabinet Office in the Public Bodies Directory. This is available at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/other/agencies/public_bodies/index.asp

The directory for each year from 1998 to 2006 is currently available and the 2007 directory will be available before the end of the year.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will break down by subheading the £8.2 billion efficiency savings identified in the Comprehensive Spending Review for his Department; how each saving will be delivered; and how much money will be released by each. [159933]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department will publish a value for money delivery agreement in December. This will set out the approach to delivering and monitoring value for money gains in the national health service for 2008-09 to 2010-11. The NHS Operating Framework will also support delivery of value for money in the NHS.

The Government are committed to creating a more locally led, innovative health service, that puts the needs and wishes of patients, staff and the public at the heart of care. Given this increased local emphasis, it is right that the Department supports the NHS locally in determining the most suitable value for money opportunities for local health communities, without imposing solutions from the centre. The delivery agreement will therefore set out both the value for money opportunities which the Department can deliver on behalf of the NHS and the Department's role in supporting the NHS to deliver value for money locally, without setting a prescriptive breakdown of individual value for money activities.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in which areas funding in his Department's budget has been ring-fenced; and what the *(a)* amount ring-fenced and *(b)* purpose of the ring-fence was in each case. [159940]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has ring-fenced revenue grants for the following reasons in 2007-08:

AIDS Support £16.5 million: The Public Health White Paper "Choosing Health" highlighted sexual health as a priority area for action, and the ring-fencing encourages spending in accordance with that priority.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)—£90.5 million: The purpose of the CAMHS Grant is to enable local authorities, in consultation with local health organisations, to deliver a comprehensive CAMHS in line with the Department's National Service Framework for Children and the cross-Government Every Child Matters programme. The ring-fencing is designed to ensure that the money is spent on improving CAMHS, as provision is geographically variable and improvements have been made from a low baseline.

Mental health—£132.9 million: ring-fenced to encourage spending on mental health services, considered historically to have received comparatively low investment.

Individual Budget Pilots—£6 million: The grant is paid to 13 councils to support their work to pilot the individual budget programme. Ring-fenced in view of this pilot status to ensure that spending on the area occurs to inform the outcomes.

Partnerships for Older People Pilots—£40 million: enables councils to establish joint pilot projects with their health and other partners to deliver and evaluate approaches which will create a sustainable shift in resources and culture away from crisis-based institutionalised care towards 'preventative' care for older people within their own homes and communities: ring-fenced given its pilot status.

Departments: Standards

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of his Department's public service agreement targets *(a)* take and *(b)* do not take account of rural proofing. [159630]

Mr. Bradshaw: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are allocated resources to commission health services at a local level for their population, and are responsible for taking into account the needs, experiences and expectations of their local population. Together with local authorities (LAs), PCTs are therefore responsible for ensuring that priorities, including public service agreements, are delivered in a way that ensures equity of service provision, including taking into account rural issues, when commissioning services for their area.

To support this, the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill will introduce a new requirement for PCTs and upper tier LAs to produce a joint strategic needs assessment (JSNA) of the health and well-being needs of their local community. This assessment will be the means by which they will describe the future health, care and well-being needs of local populations. It is expected that the joint strategic

needs assessment will be carried out jointly by the Director of Public Health, the Director of Adult Social Services and the Director of Children's Services. The duty on LAs and PCTs to prepare a JSNA will commence on 1 April 2008.

East of England Strategic Health Authority: Expenditure

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the projected cost of running and administering the East of England Strategic Health Authority was in each year for which figures are available. [159220]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The East of England Strategic Health Authority (SHA) has received a resource allocation of £9.8 million in 2007-08. It is for the SHA to determine how to spend its resource allocation.

General Practitioners: Conditions of Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 5 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1183W, on general practitioners: conditions of employment, what his Department's *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest estimate was of the effect the new contract for general practitioners would have on (i) average salaries for general practitioners and (ii) annual additional costs to the public purse as part of the discussions prior to the 2002 Budget. [159840]

Mr. Bradshaw: The majority of general practitioners are independent contractors and do not receive salaries as such. Instead, they take a share of the net profit their practice makes in a year, after taking into account all earnings and expenses of the practice. The new contract determines a significant proportion of the earnings a practice receives. In agreeing the new contract, the Government guaranteed to increase investment in primary medical care services by 36 per cent. or £1.8 billion, in England, over three years ending 2005-06.

Health Services: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the level of funding required to introduce 100 new GP practices into the 25 per cent. of primary care trusts with the poorest provision, as stated on page 25 of his Department's NHS Next Stage Review: Interim Report, published 4October; [158464]

(2) what estimate he has made of funding required to establish the 150 new GP-led health centres referred to on page 25 of his Department's NHS Next Stage Review: Interim Report, published on 4 October 2007; when he intends to introduce the centres; and if he will make a statement. [158474]

Mr. Bradshaw: On 10 October, the Secretary of State announced a £250 million access fund to deliver 100 new GP practices in the 25 per cent. of primary care trusts with poorest provision and 150 new GP-led health centres. The Department is now working with the national health service to establish timescales for delivery and to determine the specific funding requirements which will be based on local primary care trust plans. Our detailed assumptions at this stage are commercially sensitive.

Health Services: Standards

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department provides to commissioners of healthcare services for assessing the predicted health needs of the populations they serve. [157023]

Mr. Bradshaw: Assessing need is fundamental to improving the health and wellbeing outcomes of local populations. The Department is committed to ensuring that local services reflect the needs of their populations, leading to communities that are healthier, with services delivered in settings that are most convenient to the people that use them.

To help commissioners understand the needs of their populations, the Department has provided the patients at risk of re-hospitalisation tool which systematically predicts people at risk of repeated emergency admission to hospital and the combined predictive model which stratifies risk across the whole population.

The Department is also working with the NHS to set out a vision for world class commissioning, and the organisational competencies that will be needed to achieve this vision. These competencies will address the importance of understanding and predicting the health needs of the local population, and the techniques that will achieve this.

The Department is planning to publish the vision and competencies in early December. This will be followed early next year by a support and development framework to help primary care trusts achieve the vision for world class commissioning.

The forthcoming duty of joint strategic needs assessment, which should come into effect April 2008, will ensure that the needs of local people are comprehensively and systematically assessed. The Commissioning Framework for Health and Wellbeing, which was out for consultation earlier this year, has already gone a long way towards describing what questions commissioners should ask to understand the needs of the communities they serve. Forthcoming guidance on joint strategic needs assessment from the Department will clarify the approach commissioners can take.

Hospitals: Cleaning Services

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether decisions on the methods used for deep-cleaning hospitals will be made according to national or local guidelines. [160457]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 23 October 2007]*: The precise arrangements for the delivery of the deep-clean programme will be determined locally since individual trusts are best placed to know what is required and the best way of achieving it. There are therefore no plans to issue any guidelines centrally. Whether local guidelines will be issued by individual strategic health authorities (SHA), who will be allocating funding, is a matter for the SHA to decide.

Medical Treatments Abroad

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in England had operations abroad approved in advance and funded by the NHS in each of the last three years. [160496]

Dawn Primarolo: Since November 2002 primary care trusts have had powers to refer patients abroad directly at the national health service expense if they decide to but details of the costs and volumes of this activity are not collected centrally.

Figures are only available centrally for the number of people who receive authorisation for treatment in other member states of the European economic area and in Switzerland under the E112 referral scheme, in accordance with European Union Regulation (EEC) 1408/71. This regulation coordinates the social security and healthcare schemes of the member states.

Information about patients from England, Scotland and Wales referred abroad using the E112 procedure is shown as follows:

	Number of E112s issued
2004	353
2005	228
2006	357

Mentally Ill

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what records his Department holds on the number of people with mental illnesses in each year since 1997. [159722]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Records of this nature are not held centrally.

The survey of psychiatric morbidity among adults in private households, a United Kingdom-wide series of surveys last carried out in 2000, indicated that one in six adults between the ages of 16 and 74 had symptoms of neurotic disorder and four adults in a thousand had symptoms of psychotic disorder. The overall prevalence of psychosis is believed to be around one in a hundred as a disproportionate number of psychosis sufferers do not live in private households. The first survey of psychiatric morbidity was carried out in 1993, and it produced very similar results.

NHS Direct

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the guidance documents which are issued to staff answering calls at NHS Direct. [159964]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the documents issued to staff answering calls in NHS Direct is not held centrally but may be available from the Chairman of NHS Direct NHS Trust.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the reduction in NHS expenditure arising from the two-year price freeze on products in part IX of the drug tariff; [160451]

(2) what assessment he has made of the impact of his Department's proposals for Part IX of the drug tariff on the workloads of specialist nurses; [160452]

(3) if he will publish an impact assessment on the proposed changes to storma and incontinence appliances in Part IX of the drug tariff. [160453]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 23 October 2007]*: The review of the arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances—and related services—in primary care is ongoing. A further consultation, "Arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances—and related services—to Primary Care. Revised Proposals", was published on 6 September 2007 and closes on 28 December 2007. Copies of the consultation have been placed in the Library and it is also available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_078135

A partial regulatory impact assessment was published with the previous consultation that was published in November 2006. A copy has been placed in the Library.

An impact assessment will be produced as part of the Department's final recommendation.

Some dispensing contractors employ specialist nurses who visit patients. The most recent consultation, "Arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances—and related services—to Primary Care. Revised Proposals", proposes that these dispensing contractors should be remunerated for providing this service. This is in keeping with one of the Department's stated objectives: maintain, and where applicable improve, the current quality of care to patients and provide a consistent level of care.

In meeting this objective, the Department does not anticipate any impact on the workload of the specialist nurses employed directly by the national health service.

The current spend on stoma and incontinence appliances by the NHS is about £200 million a year. Reimbursement prices for Part IX items are usually subject to an annual increase.

The Department froze the levels of reimbursement in April 2006. The value of this 18-month freeze is estimated to be £7-8 million. However, it should be noted that this cost avoidance has been offset by the additional cost of an increased number of Part IX prescription items dispensed in the same period.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average *(a)* income per patient, *(b)* nurse to patient ratio and *(c)* doctor to patient ratio was for each (i) primary care trust and (ii) hospital trust in England at the latest date for which figures are available. [156441]

Mr. Bradshaw: The average income per primary care trust and NHS Trust has been placed in the Library.

PCTs recognise a combination of funding and miscellaneous income in their accounts. We have supplied both as normally we do not just add these together, as funding is cash based and income is based on accruals accounting. PCTs with large amounts of

income will commonly be commissioning on behalf of other PCTs or have pooled budgets with local authorities.

Information on the average doctor to patient ratio and nurse to patient ratio for each PCT and hospital trust is not collected centrally.

Psychiatry

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in which 20 areas of the country his Department will be rolling out psychological therapies in 2008. [159936]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We anticipate that the sites will be located across all 10 strategic health authority (SHA) regions in England. The Department will be working with the National Institute for Mental Health in England and the SHAs to determine where these sites will be located.

Radiography

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) radiographers are employed by each NHS trust; what change each figure represents on the previous year; and what plans he has to improve the retention of MRI radiographers. [157366]

Mr. Bradshaw: We cannot isolate the number of magnetic resonance imaging radiographers from the census data. The number of all qualified diagnostic radiographers by each national health service trust and the change from the previous year is shown in the following table.

A range of recruitment, retention and returner initiatives are already place as a result of meeting the challenging work force targets set out in the 'NHS Plan' and 'Delivering the NHS Plan'. The NHS is striving to be an employer of choice and is developing and implementing modern recruitment practices.

NHS hospital and community services: Qualified diagnostic radiography staff in England by strategic health authority area and by organisation as at 30 September each specified year

				Headcount
	2005	*2006*	*Change*[1]	*Percentage change*[2]
England	*12,700*	*12,535*	*74*	*0.6*
North-east strategic health authority area	*707*	*694*	*-1*	*-0.1*
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	67	73	6	9.0
County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	95	94	0	0.0
Gateshead Health NHS Trust	62	64	2	3.2
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust	82	63	-19	-23.2
Northumbria Health Care NHS Trust	76	73	2	2.6
South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust	133	138	6	4.5
South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust	35	32	-3	-8.6
The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Trust	157	157	5	3.2
North-west strategic health authority area	*2,150*	*2,150*	*54*	*2.5*
5 Boroughs Partnership NHS Trust	4	3	0	0.0
Aintree Hospitals NHS Trust	71	74	3	4.2
Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Trust	96	92	-3	-3.1
Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust	73	70	0	0.0
Central Liverpool PCT	8	n/a	n/a	n/a
Central Manchester and Manchester Children's University Hospitals NHS Trust	105	102	-2	-1.9
Christie Hospital NHS Trust	11	40	29	263.6
Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology NHS Trust	26	20	-6	-23.1
Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	71	67	6	8.5
East Cheshire NHS Trust	43	42	1	2.3
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	128	122	-6	-4.7
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	109	109	4	3.7
Liverpool PCT	n/a	7	n/a	n/a
Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust	19	22	3	15.8
Mersey Care NHS Trust	1	1	0	0.0
Morecambe Bay Hospitals NHS Trust	116	108	-6	-5.2
North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust	99	86	-5	-5.1
North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	78	80	2	2.6
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	167	168	2	1.2
Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust	125	114	-7	-5.6
Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital NHS Trust	34	32	-2	-5.9
Salford Royal Hospitals NHS Trust	64	68	4	6.3
South Manchester University Hospitals NHS Trust	105	107	2	1.9
Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust	71	71	5	7.0

NHS hospital and community services: Qualified diagnostic radiography staff in England by strategic health authority area and by organisation as at 30 September each specified year

				Headcount
	2005	*2006*	*Change*[1]	*Percentage change*[1]
St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	77	77	0	0.0
Stockport NHS Trust	59	65	6	10.2
Tameside and Glossop Acute Services NHS Trust	58	57	1	1.7
The Cardiothoracic Centre— Liverpool NHS Trust	25	40	15	60.0
The Mid Cheshire Hospital NHS Trust	55	54	-1	-1.8
The Wirral Hospital NHS Trust	98	104	6	6.1
Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust	29	26	1	3.4
Walton Centre for Neurology and Neurosurgery NHS Trust	24	21	-3	-12.5
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Trust	101	101	6	5.9
Yorkshire and the Humber strategic health authority area	*1,444*	*1,411*	*1*	*0.1*
Airedale NHS Trust	51	52	2	3.9
Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	44	46	2	4.5
Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	94	98	4	4.3
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Trust	109	111	2	1.8
Doncaster and Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Trust	90	70	-20	-22.2
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	n/a	2	n/a	n/a
Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust	37	40	4	10.8
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	149	129	-8	-5.4
Number Mental Health Teaching NHS Trust	2	n/a	n/a	n/a
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	335	309	-19	-5.7
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	126	120	-5	-4.0
Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Trust	64	62	-2	-3.1
Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Health Care NHS Trust	58	52	-2	-3.4
Sheffield Children's Hospital NHS Trust	17	20	4	23.5
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	129	160	36	27.9
The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust	50	44	-4	-8.0
York Hospitals NHS Trust	89	96	7	7.9
East midlands strategic health authority area	*900*	*883*	*-1*	*-0.1*
Charnwood and North West Leicestershire PCT	10	n/a	n/a	n/a
Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	59	59	1	1.7
Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	118	118	1	0.8
Derbyshire County PCT	n/a	5	n/a	n/a
Erewash PCT	5	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hinckley And Bosworth PCT	4	n/a	n/a	n/a
Kettering General Hospital NHS Trust	66	61	0	0.0
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	n/a	19	n/a	n/a
Melton, Rutland And Harborough PCT	5	n/a	n/a	n/a
Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust	63	57	-4	-6.3
Nottingham City Hospital NHS Trust	68	n/a	n/a	n/a
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust		160	n/a	n/a
Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust	114	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Trust	68	68	0	0.0
The United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust	114	116	5	4.4
University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust	206	220	14	6.8
West midlands strategic health authority area	*1,345*	*1,324*	*0*	*0.0*
Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Trust	28	28	0	0.0
Birmingham Women's Healthcare NHS Trust	24	20	-4	-16.7
Burntwood, Lichfield And Tamworth PCT	13	n/a	n/a	n/a
Burton Hospitals NHS Trust	46	48	3	6.5
Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Trust	80	79	2	2.5
Good Hope Hospital NHS Trust	47	44	-3	-6.4
Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust	66	85	20	30.3
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	35	35	0	0.0
Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust	65	65	1	1.5
North Stoke PCT	1	n/a	n/a	n/a

NHS hospital and community services: Qualified diagnostic radiography staff in England by strategic health authority area and by organisation as at 30 September each specified year

				Headcount
	2005	*2006*	*Change*[1]	*Percentage change*[1]
Redditch And Bromsgrove PCT	27	n/a	n/a	n/a
Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic and District Hospital NHS Trust	37	36	-1	-2.7
Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	17	20	3	17.6
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust	107	100	-7	-6.5
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	99	99	3	3.0
Shropshire County PCT	4	4	0	0.0
South Birmingham PCT	7	7	0	0.0
South Staffordshire PCT	n/a	13	n/a	n/a
South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust	42	39	-1	-2.4
South Warwickshire PCT	2	n/a	n/a	n/a
Stoke on Trent Teaching PCT	n/a	1	n/a	n/a
The George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust	30	27	-3	-10.0
The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	67	57	-9	-13.4
University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust	112	108	-2	-1.8
University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust	131	128	-2	-1.5
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	103	103	2	1.9
Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust	49	47	-2	-4.1
Warwickshire PCT	n/a	2	n/a	n/a
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	106	103	0	0.0
Worcestershire PCT	n/a	26	n/a	n/a
East of England strategic health authority area	*1,166*	*1,144*	*-2*	*-0.2*
Basildon and Thurrock General Hospital NHS Trust	53	59	8	15.1
Bedford Hospital NHS Trust	40	41	1	2.5
Billericay, Brentwood and Wickford PCT	1	n/a	n/a	n/a
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	113	108	-5	-4.4
Cambridgeshire PCT	n/a	8	n/a	n/a
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	165	104	-60	-36.4
East Cambridgeshire and Fenland PCT	10	n/a	n/a	n/a
Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust	68	76	10	14.7
Great Yarmouth and Waveney Teaching PCT	n/a	1	n/a	n/a
Hinchingbrooke Healthcare NHS Trust	29	30	1	3.4
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	89	88	1	1.1
James Paget Healthcare NHS Trust	5	8	4	80.0
Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Trust	76	76	2	2.6
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	19	34	16	84.2
Norfolk and Norwich Health Care NHS Trust	123	127	13	10.6
Norfolk PCT	n/a	1	n/a	n/a
Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	26	25	-1	-3.8
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	71	67	-4	-5.6
South West Essex Teaching PCT	n/a	1	n/a	n/a
Southend Hospital NHS Trust	61	63	2	3.3
Suffolk PCT	n/a	6	n/a	n/a
Suffolk West PCT	7	n/a	n/a	n/a
The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	37	45	8	21.6
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Trust	42	43	1	2.4
Waveney PCT	1	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	70	73	3	4.3
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	60	60	0	0.0
London strategic health authority area	*1,862*	*1,869*	*13*	*0.7*
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust	97	96	-1	-1.0
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	90	90	0	0.0
Barts and the London NHS Trust	139	127	-12	-8.6
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	50	48	-2	-4.0
Chelsea and Westminster Healthcare NHS Trust	47	49	2	4.3
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	24	28	4	16.7
Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	84	81	-3	-3.6
Great Ormond Street Hospital For Sick Children NHS Trust	32	30	-2	-6.3

NHS hospital and community services: Qualified diagnostic radiography staff in England by strategic health authority area and by organisation as at 30 September each specified year

				Headcount
	2005	*2006*	*Change*[1]	*Percentage change*[1]
Guys and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	91	88	-3	-3.3
Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust	85	83	-2	-2.4
Havering PCT	1	1	0	0.0
Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	53	55	2	3.8
Hillingdon PCT	4	3	-1	-25.0
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	35	34	-1	-2.9
King's College Hospital NHS Trust	92	94	2	2.2
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	65	66	3	4.6
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	43	43	0	0.0
Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	1	2	1	100.0
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	29	31	2	6.9
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	32	34	2	6.3
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	77	77	1	1.3
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	52	55	3	5.8
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	43	40	-2	-4.7
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	5	3	-2	-40.0
Royal Brompton and Harefield NHS Trust	50	50	0	0.0
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	52	66	14	26.9
Royal Marsden Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	52	52	0	0.0
Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust	27	26	-1	-3.7
South London and Maudsley NHS Trust	9	9	0	0.0
St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	113	114	2	1.8
St. Mary's NHS Trust	53	55	2	3.8
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	35	36	1	2.9
The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	28	27	-1	-3.6
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	105	102	-2	-1.9
West London Mental Health NHS Trust	1	1	0	0.0
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	26	32	6	23.1
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	40	41	1	2.5
South-east coast strategic health authority area	*908*	*900*	*20*	*2.2*
Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	59	66	9	15.3
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	102	91	-1	-1.0
Crawley PCT	1	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	38	37	-1	-2.6
East Elmbridge and Mid Surrey PCT	1	n/a	n/a	n/a
East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust	143	144	3	2.1
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	n/a	10	n/a	n/a
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	84	85	1	1.2
Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	46	52	6	13.0
Guildford and Waverley PCT	22	n/a	n/a	n/a
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	98	93	-2	-2.0
Medway NHS Trust	73	72	1	1.4
North Surrey PCT	1	n/a	n/a	n/a
Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	10	10	0	0.0
Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Trust	56	57	1	1.8
Royal West Sussex NHS Trust	42	42	0	0.0
South West Kent PCT	5	n/a	n/a	n/a
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	65	62	-1	-1.5
Surrey Heath And Woking PCT	1	n/a	n/a	n/a
Surrey PCT	n/a	22	n/a	n/a
Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	11	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Kent PCT	n/a	6	n/a	n/a
West Sussex Teaching PCT	n/a	4	n/a	n/a
Western Sussex PCT	4	n/a	n/a	n/a
Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust	46	47	1	2.2
South central strategic health authority area	*883*	*834*	*-27*	*-3.1*
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	96	81	-13	-13.5

NHS hospital and community services: Qualified diagnostic radiography staff in England by strategic health authority area and by organisation as at 30 September each specified year

	2005	2006	Change[1]	Headcount Percentage change[1]
Cherwell Vale PCT	7	n/a	n/a	n/a
Hampshire PCT	n/a	5	n/a	n/a
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust	76	73	1	1.3
Isle Of Wight Healthcare NHS Trust	12	n/a	n/a	n/a
Isle of Wight Healthcare PCT	n/a	12	n/a	n/a
Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS Trust	1	2	1	100.0
New Forest PCT	7	n/a	n/a	n/a
North Hampshire Hospitals NHS Trust	57	45	-12	-21.1
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust	25	32	7	28.0
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	166	168	7	4.2
Oxfordshire PCT	n/a	6	n/a	n/a
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	131	105	-20	-15.3
Royal Berkshire and Battle Hospitals NHS Trust	87	87	3	3.4
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	171	169	0	0.0
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	47	49	2	4.3
South-west strategic health authority area	*1,335*	*1,326*	*17*	*1.3*
Devon PCT	n/a	9	n/a	n/a
Dorset PCT	n/a	4	n/a	n/a
East Devon PCT	6	n/a	n/a	n/a
East Somerset NHS Trust	35	32	-3	-8.6
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	132	124	-1	-0.8
Mid Devon PCT	2	n/a	n/a	n/a
North Bristol NHS Trust	130	131	1	0.8
North Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	29	28	0	0.0
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	108	119	12	11.1
Poole Hospital NHS Trust	90	84	3	3.3
Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	81	83	2	2.5
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	116	126	10	8.6
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	77	63	-14	-18.2
Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Disorders NHS foundation Trust	2	2	0	0.0
Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust	79	76	0	0.0
Salisbury Health Care NHS Trust	56	52	-3	-5.4
South and East Dorset PCT	2	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	64	61	-1	-1.6
Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust	71	66	-4	-5.6
Taunton and Somerset NHS Trust	60	63	3	5.0
United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust	126	133	7	5.6
West Dorset General Hospitals NHS Trust	44	44	0	0.0
Weston Area Health NHS Trust	25	26	1	4.0

n/a = not applicable

[1] More accurate validation in 2006 has resulted in 9,858 duplicate records being identified and removed from the non-medical census. Although this represents less than 1 per cent. of total records, it should be taken into consideration when making historical comparisons. Consequently, the change, and percentage changes, shown above have been estimated to take into account these duplicates, so that comparisons of 2006 with earlier years' are valid.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

Royston Hospital

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans there are for the future of Royston Hospital; [158240]

(2) what plans his Department has to develop Royston Hospital in the same way as Hertford County Hospital; and if he will make a statement; [158253]

(3) what estimate the NHS has made of the number of patients in the catchment area for Hertford County Hospital; [158254]

(4) what assessment the NHS has made of the number of patients in the catchment area for Royston Hospital; to what extent this includes patients from Cambridge and Essex in addition to Hertfordshire patients; and if he will make a statement. [158255]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This is a matter for the local national health service. It is the responsibility of primary care trusts (PCTs) to ensure that NHS services provided locally meet the needs of the populations that they serve.

We understand that the two Hertfordshire PCTs have recently concluded a formal consultation on the future

of health services in Hertfordshire as a whole. The next phase is for the project team to collate and analyse all the comments received in response to the consultation. The findings will be presented to both PCT boards in December this year.

TREASURY

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1967-8W, on the Building Schools for the Future programme, how many of the half dozen to two dozen recommendations of the review of the Building Schools for the Future programme were to be taken forward by his Department. [159837]

Andy Burnham: None of the recommendations were for implementation by the Treasury.

Census

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what preparatory work has begun in *(a)* Southend on Sea, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England for the 2011 census; what representations he has received since 2005 on that census; and if he will make a statement. [159648]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 24 October 2007:

The National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what preparatory work has begun in (a) Southend-on-Sea, (b) Essex and (c) England for the 2011 Census; what representations he has received since 2005 on that Census. I am replying in her absence. (159648)

Preparations for the 2011 Census in England and Wales include:-

Consultations earned out in 2002-2003 on the need for a Census;

Formal consultation launched in May 2005 on the content of the 2011 Census;

Publication in March 2006 of approximately 2,000 responses to the consultation on content;

Formal consultation on ethnicity, identity, language and religion launched in December 2006;

Publication of summary of responses to the consultation on ethnicity, identity, language and religion October 2007;

Programme of individual question development;

Small-scale tests of questions;

Development of the 2007 Test questionnaire;

Launch in September 2005 through the Official Journal of the European Union of the procurement process for the contract to support the 2011 Census, covering

Printing of questionnaires, information leaflets and envelopes;

Data capture;

Internet capture/coding;

Questionnaire tracking;

Operational intelligence support;

Contact centres.

Development of new procedures;

Postal delivery of questionnaires;

Development of a robust list of addresses/households;

On-the-ground address checking operation before census;

Internet collection option;

Post-back to a single central location;

Central questionnaire response tracking and fast receipting;

Two-way field communication systems; and

More effective and flexible field operation.

2007 Census Test held on 13 May covering 100,000 households within five local authorities—Bath and North East Somerset, Camden, Carmarthenshire, Liverpool and Stoke-on-Trent Test Evaluation report to be published in early 2008;

Formal consultation on Small Area Geography launched in November 2006;

Address Register evaluation;

Planning for Rehearsal in 2009; and

Planning engagement with stakeholders including an increased role for local authorities and local authority chief executives.

We recognise that for the engagement to work really effectively it will be important to get the support of local authority chief executives, particularly in view of the financial implications associated with Census results. We are working with a sub group of the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE) Electoral Matters Panel, of which the Chief Executive for Southend-on Sea, Robert Tinlin is a member. Mr Tinlin wrote to the National Statistician in April asking how we could best work together to achieve a successful Census and in her reply the National Statistician suggested that after we had done some evaluation of the Test, a meeting should be arranged between Ian Cope, the Census Director and Mr Tinlin. They were scheduled to meet in September at the next meeting of the SOLACE Electoral Matters Panel Census sub-group but I understand the meeting has been postponed until 13 November.

Specific areas identified for working in partnership with local authorities include:

Address Register development to ensure fullest coverage;

Enumeration intelligence for targeting of delivery methods and follow-up resources;

Identifying and developing Community Liaison contacts;

Recruitment and logistical support; and

Publicity.

We recognise that not all local authorities would have the same resources to commit to working with us in all these areas, but we are keen to explore the potential for working with both Southend-on-Sea Borough Council and Essex County Council.

A draft Local Authority Engagement Strategy is currently being reviewed by the Local Government Association and the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Representations concerning the 2011 Census have been primarily in the form of responses to widespread consultations carried out since 2005 on the topic content of the Census, including in particular ethnicity, identity, language and religion, and the future policy on the use of small area geographies for National Statistics. Other than the responses to the consultation, some 650 pieces of correspondence have been dealt with since 2005. These have focused primarily on the topics and questions to be included in the Census, confidentiality, and from local authorities enquiring about our plans for enumeration of their areas.

Census: Essex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the accuracy of figures for *(a)* Southend on Sea and *(b)* Essex in each of the last two censuses; what representations he has received on this in each of the last two years; and if he will make a statement. [159650]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 24 October 2007:

The National Statistician and Registrar General for England and Wales has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what recent assessment has been made of the accuracy of census figures for (a) Southend on Sea and (b) Essex in each of the last two censuses and what representations have been received on this in each of the last two years, I am replying in her absence. (159650)

Following the 2001 Census for England and Wales, ONS undertook an extensive programme of work to investigate the reasons for the difference between the 2001 Census and the mid-year population estimates (MYEs) at both national and local levels. This research included a series of local authority studies carried out in 2004 which were designed to improve the MYEs in the areas that proved hardest to count in the Census. An extensive review was carried out for 32 local authorities, including Southend-on-Sea. The results of these studies showed that better estimates of the population could be made in 15 areas and an adjustment was made to the MYEs in these areas. For the great majority of areas, including Southend-on-Sea, it was found that the 2001 Census-based population estimate remains the best estimate of the population. A full report on these Local Authority Studies can be found at: www.statistics.gov .uk/ downloads/theme_population/LAStudy_FullReport.pdf.

The Census 2001 Quality report for England and Wales provides information about all aspects of quality relating to the 2001 Census. It provides an overview of the quality issues and the studies and analyses that have been carried out to improve the quality of census data. The Quality report is held in the House of Commons Library or can be downloaded from www.statistics.gov;uk/census2001/proj_qr.asp

Official assessments of the quality of the 1991 Census were published in the 1991 Census General Report (ISBN 0-11-691616-8) and User Guide 58 (Undercoverage in Great Britain). These were carried out at national level and no assessment of quality was made for individual local authorities. The General Report is held in the House of Commons Library and User Guide 58 may be obtained from Census Customer Services at census.customerservicesf@ons.gov.uk.

The 1991 Census Validation Survey assessed the coverage of the Census and the quality of the Census information recorded about those people who were successfully enumerated. The 1991 Census Validation Survey: Quality Report (ISBN 0-11-691688-5) and 1991 Census Validation Survey: Coverage Report (ISBN 0-11-691591-9) Is held in the House of Commons Library,

With the completion of the Local Authority studies in 2004, no further assessment of the accuracy of the 2001 Census has been required, ONS are now working on developing the plans for the next Census in 2011.

In the two years since September 2005, ONS has received two letters from one local authority and one letter from a Parish Council specifically regarding the accuracy of the Census results. They have met with a further local authority to discuss their concerns. There have been no formal representations made to ONS specifically about the accuracy of the 1991 or 2001 Census during this time.

Civil Servants: Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how civil service annual pay increases to basic pay rates are calculated within overall earnings growth amounts. [156827]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 10 October 2007]:* All increases to basic pay rates in the civil service are included within the figures for overall earnings growth.

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the *(a)* basic increase elements and *(b)* overall earnings growth figures for civil service pay are calculated in the same way as other parts of the public sector. [156828]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 10 October 2007]:* Many public sector workforce groups employ a step-based pay system. Where civil service departments have similar systems, the basic award will be calculated in the same way.

However, due to the wide variety of pay systems used in the civil service, which sometimes differ from those used elsewhere in the public sector, the basic award is necessarily calculated in different ways in some organisations.

In the civil service, earnings growth is most appropriately measured through Increase for Staff in Post (ISP). This metric is used to record the cost of the average pay increase staff receive in a Department or agency.

Corporation Tax

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the number of small companies which have faced larger corporation tax bills as a result of changes to the associated company rule. [159068]

Jane Kennedy: There have been no recent substantive changes to the associated company rules affecting small companies.

Defence: Finance

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 2 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 932W, on Defence: Finance, what the Ministry of Defence's upper limit for non-cash to near cash switches was for financial years 2001-02 to 2007-08. [156005]

Andy Burnham: Full resource budgeting was introduced in 2003-04. From that point, as set out in the answer of 2 July, *Official Report*, column 932W, the upper limit for non-cash to near cash switches is reflected in the relevant parliamentary supply estimate. These are detailed as follows:

	£ million
2004-05 Main estimate	350
2005-06 Main estimate	350
2006-07 Main estimate	380
Winter supplementary estimate	100
Spring supplementary estimate	150
2007-08 Main estimate	440

General Practitioners

Mr. Allen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by what mechanism primary care trusts will bid for the extra GP surgeries announced in his statement of 9 October on the pre-Budget report and Comprehensive Spending Review. [157611]

Mr. Bradshaw: I have been asked to reply.

We are working with the NHS to identify where the new GP surgeries should be located, based on the measures highlighted in the Next Stage Review Interim Report (primary care clinicians, patient satisfaction and health outcomes). Funding will be allocated to these areas based on local PCT plans. A list will be made available shortly.

Immigration: Bulgaria

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Office for National Statistics projections of net migration into the UK assume a change in arrangements for workers from Romania and Bulgaria. [159981]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 22 October 2007]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated 24 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking whether the Office for National Statistics projections of net migration into the UK assume a change in arrangements for workers from Romania and Bulgaria. I am replying in her absence. (159981)

New national population projections, based on the population at the middle of 2006, were published on 23 October 2007. They include a short-term allowance for additional net migration from the accession countries which joined the EU in May 2004 and January 2007. I am placing in the House of Commons Library a note setting out details of this allowance, which is also available at:

http://www.gad.gov.uk/Demography_Data/Population/2006/methodology/migrass.asp

The assumptions underlying national population projections are demographic trend based. They are not forecasts. They make no assumptions about changes in government policy.

Income: South West Region

Martin Horwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimates of household incomes are in *(a)* Cheltenham constituency, *(b)* each of the Gloucestershire constituencies and *(c)* the South West region, broken down by households with a weekly income of (i) up to £100, (ii) between £100 and £150, (iii) between £151 and £250, (iv) between £251 and £350, (v) between £351 and £450, (vi) between £451 and £600, (vii) between £601 and £750 and (viii) £751 or over. [159062]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury does not hold data concerning the information requested.

Inheritance Tax: South West Region

Martin Horwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* people who have died and *(b)* estates subject to inheritance tax in (i) Cheltenham constituency, (ii) each of the other Gloucestershire constituencies and (iii) the South West region in each of the last five years; [159063]

(2) what recent estimate he has made of the amount raised from inheritance tax in *(a)* Cheltenham constituency, *(b)* each of the other Gloucestershire constituencies and *(c)* the South West region in each of the last five years. [159064]

Jane Kennedy: The Office for National Statistics has provided the following information on numbers of deaths:

Table 1: Number of deaths, parliamentary constituencies in Gloucestershire, and the South West government office region, 2002-2006[1]

Area type/Name	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
					Persons
Parliamentary constituency					
Cheltenham	947	1,043	870	912	988
Cotswold	960	1,019	987	1,001	916
Forest of Dean	972	933	903	829	897
Gloucester	1,012	1,060	1,094	1,026	969
Stroud	1,077	1,088	1,044	1,030	1,070
Tewkesbury	864	929	889	873	870
Government office region					
South West	55,170	55,918	52,610	53,128	51,755

[1] Based on deaths registered in each calendar year

Figures for estates paying inheritance tax and amounts of tax paid are not available at local levels.

Intelligence Services: Expenditure

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Security and Intelligence Agencies' *(a)* administrative expenditure, *(b)* other current expenditure, *(c)* grant expenditure, *(d)* operating appropriations in aid (A in A), *(e)* capital and *(f)* non-operating A in A outturn, broken down in (i) near cash and (ii) non-cash terms was for financial years 2001-02 to 2006-07. [156680]

Andy Burnham: It has been the policy of successive Governments not to reveal details of the Security and Intelligence Agencies' spending, beyond what is published already.

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will break down in *(a)* near cash and *(b)* non-cash terms columns 1 to 8 of the subhead detail tables for the Security and Intelligence Agencies contained in the (i) main estimate, (ii) winter supplementary estimate and (iii) spring supplementary estimate for financial years 2001-02 to 2007-08. [156681]

Andy Burnham: It has been the policy of successive Governments not to reveal details of the Security and Intelligence Agencies' spending, beyond what is published already.

Legal Aid: Terrorism

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the single anti-terrorism budget announced in the 2007 pre-Budget report includes funds for the provision of legal aid in terrorist cases. [158455]

Andy Burnham: The single security and intelligence budget announced in the 2007 pre-Budget report does not include legal aid.

Metronet: Insolvency

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Treasury has authorised additional borrowings by Transport for London to help them meet liabilities relating to the administration of Metronet. [160245]

Andy Burnham: The Department for Transport has been in discussion with Transport for London as part of the process of the Comprehensive Spending Review about their future funding needs, including any liabilities they may face as a result of Metronet's entry into administration. These discussions are ongoing.

Pay

Ben Chapman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will commission an analysis of recent trends in the gap between executive and shop-floor pay. [158010]

Andy Burnham: The Government have no plans to commission an analysis of recent trends in the gap between executive and shop-floor pay.

The Low Pay Commission recommends the new rates of the minimum wage to the Government each year to ensure a decent minimum rate of pay for all employees. As part of its responsibilities, the Commission also carries out surveys of firms and sectors with a high proportion of low-paid workers.

Pensions: Public Sector

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will make it his policy to publish estimates of total public service pension liabilities on a regular basis in the future; [153926]

(2) what the total liability of unfunded public service pension schemes was as at 31 March in each year since 1997. [153927]

Andy Burnham: Total unfunded public service liabilities are estimated to be £530 billion at 31 March 2005. The two previous comparable estimates of this total were £460 billion at 31 March 2004 and, and £425 billion at 31 March 2003. The estimates for years prior to 2003 were not made on a comparable basis. As noted in the 2007 pre-Budget report (Cm 7227), updated estimates of the unfunded public service liability will be published alongside the next long-term public finance report.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the figures are that underlie the chart at the web address http://csr07.treasury.gov.uk/spending-by-age/. [156597]

Andy Burnham: The chart concerned depicts the broad pattern of lifetime spending and revenue for a purely illustrative individual. It is informed by Treasury analysis of statistical sources such as the Family Resource Survey, Expenditure and Food Survey and General Household Survey, available at:

www.statistics.gov.uk.

Public Expenditure: York

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make a statement on the implications of the Comprehensive Spending Review for *(a)* police and *(b)* defence in the Vale of York. [159421]

Andy Burnham: The Comprehensive Spending Review sets the spending envelope for departments over the CSR07 period. Home Office resources will increase by 1.1 per cent. a year in real terms over the CSR 07 period. Regional police funding allocations from within the Home Office settlement are the remit of the Home Secretary and the provisional police grant settlement for the CSR07 period has yet to be announced. The CSR period will see planned defence expenditure increase by 1.5 per cent. in real terms.

Public Sector: Location

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many public sector workers have been relocated *(a)* outside London, *(b)* outside London and the South East, *(c)* in the three Northern regions, *(d)* in Yorkshire and the Humber, *(e)* in West Yorkshire and *(f)* in Huddersfield since the publication of the Lyon's Review; and what assessment he has made of this performance's compliance with the conclusions of the Lyons Review of the location of public sector workers. [159529]

Andy Burnham: Over 5,700 posts have been relocated from London and over 13,000 posts have been relocated from London and the South East as part of the Lyons Relocation programme.

2,980 of these posts had been moved to the North West, 2,974 posts had been moved to Yorkshire and the Number and 727 had moved to the North East. To date, no posts have moved to Huddersfield, but the local area has benefited substantially with 529 posts relocated to Leeds.

Public Sector: Pay

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* overall paybill increase, *(b)* average basic pay and progression increase and *(c)* average performance pay of annual pay increases for (i) the civil service, (ii) local government workers, (iii) teachers and (iv) NHS staff was in each year since 1997. [156829]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 10 October 2007]:* Individual local authority employers determine local government pay. Pay for teachers and NHS staff is the responsibility of the Department for Children, Schools and Families and Department of Health respectively.

The setting of all aspects of pay and terms and conditions below the senior civil service was delegated to Departments and agencies in 1996. Information relating to the detail of average basic pay, performance pay and progression increases (questions *(b)* and *(c)*) is therefore not held centrally.

Table 1.9 of the 2007 Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (Cm 7091) includes details of administration

costs paybill for the civil service. It should be noted that changes in paybill can be affected by a number of factors beyond pay increases for staff. These include changes in workforce numbers and composition, and the effects of employer contributions.

Revenue and Customs: Compensation

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much compensation was paid to *(a)* companies and *(b)* individuals following investigations against them by HM Revenue and Customs and by each of its predecessors, the Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise, in each of the last 10 tax years. [160479]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC makes redress payments for mistakes and unreasonable delays, as did its predecessors. The total sums for the last three years are published in HMRC annual reports. In previous years these payments were not specified in the annual reports of either of the predecessor departments. It is not possible for any of the years in question for HMRC to distinguish whether any payment was made in consequence of an investigation.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether a Task Force, Steering Group or any other regular series of meetings was set up to consider the transfer of the delivery of the Academies programme to Partnerships for Schools. [159794]

Jim Knight: During the Department's consideration of the delivery method for academy building projects appropriate project management structures were put in place.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what dates liaison meetings were held between the academies and schools capital divisions in his Department and Partnerships for Schools since July 2005. [159803]

Jim Knight: Frequent meetings have taken place between the Department and Partnerships for Schools (PfS) in this period, ranging from strategic meetings with Ministers and PfS to day-to-day operational meetings. A full response to this question could therefore be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether his Department gained the approval of *(a)* HM Treasury and *(b)* the Prime Minister for the transfer of the delivery of the Academies programme to Partnerships for Schools. [160260]

Jim Knight: Yes, all appropriate approvals were obtained.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department has issued to *(a)* schools, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* partnerships for schools on the action plan drawn up to address the recommendations of the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit's review of the Building Schools for the Future programme. [159796]

Jim Knight: No guidance has been sent to schools, local authorities or Partnerships for Schools as a direct result of the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit's review of BSF. The report's recommendations have been taken into consideration as guidance has been refined and developed. No guidance has been issued to Partnerships for Schools, but we continue to work closely with them in developing materials and guidance for the programme.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance documents his Department, and its predecessor, issued to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* schools on (i) the Building Schools for the Future programme and (ii) the Academies programme since each commenced. [159797]

Jim Knight: The Department and Partnerships for Schools have issued an extensive range of publications with schools and local authorities included in their target audiences. For BSF, these include the "Strategy for Change" guidance, business case and procurement guidance, ICT guidance and the "Schools for the Future" design guides series. All guidance is available at:

www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk

www.bsf.gov.uk

For Academies, publications include: "400 Academies—Prospectus for Sponsors and Local Authorities"; "Academies and independent schools: prospectus"; and "Academies, Trusts and Higher Education: prospectus". In addition, Partnerships for Schools has issued a range of guidance, available at:

www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk/academies_guidance.htm

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* policy and *(b)* delivery issues led to the Building Schools for the Future programme being delayed. [159834]

Jim Knight: Many interplaying factors led to the programme being delayed. Most significant were the overly optimistic initial assumptions about delivery time scales, and the limited opportunities to build upon lessons learned due to the rapid roll out of the programme. The policy of prioritising entry into the programme by need, measured by deprivation (free school meals) and educational attainment (A*-C GCSEs), meant that some of the most vulnerable authorities facing a range of challenges were the first to enter the programme. We have addressed this with a series of measures, including a Readiness to Deliver assessment for authorities entering Waves 4-6 of the programme, streamlining the process through the introduction of 'Strategy for Change' and disseminating lessons learned. Since these measures were introduced, the pace of delivery has picked up.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much *(a)* capital and *(b)* resource expenditure was spent on the Building Schools for the Future programme in each financial year since the programme began; and how many private finance initiative credits were allocated in each financial year. [160274]

Jim Knight: Funding for the Building Schools for the Future programme involves a mix of capital grant, supported borrowing and PFI credits. The programme over the current spending review period consisted of the following budgets for waves 1 to 3.

			£ billion
	2005-06 wave 1	*2006-07 wave 2*	*2007-08 wave 3*
Total BSF funding	1.98	2.17	2.24
Of which:			
Capital grant	0.19	0.82	0.81
Supported borrowing	0.59	0.10	0.13
PFI	1.20	1.25	1.30

In terms of expenditure to date, £27 million of capital grant was paid in 2005-06 and £106 million in 2006-07. This is in addition to £43 million paid in 2004-05 for 'early win' BSF projects.

Supported borrowing allocations are shown in terms of the amount of proposed capital investment. These allocations provide for revenue support to local authorities to enable them to borrow to invest—the revenue is an integral part of local authorities' settlements, calculated by Communities and Local Government.

Around £3.4 billion of the available PFI credits have been allocated to projects so far, although these projects are in various stages of development.

Nursery Schools: Blackpool

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to extend free early years education places for two-year-olds piloted in local authorities in 2007; when the scheme is likely to be rolled out in Blackpool; and if he will make a statement. [160508]

Beverley Hughes: Since April 2006 16 local authorities have been trialling methods to improve child outcomes by offering disadvantaged two-year-olds free child care. In April 2007, this pilot was rolled out to a second wave of local authorities, including Blackpool, and all the pilots are currently due to end in 2009. The pilot is being carefully evaluated, and the findings will inform any future policy roll out.

Private Education: Eastern Region

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of children of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school age in (i) each local authority in the Eastern Region and (ii) each ward in the Peterborough city council area attended independent schools in each year since 1997. [160214]

Jim Knight: The available information for 1997, 2001 and 2007 is given in the following tables.

Information for all of the 11 years requested could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Independent schools[1]: Number and percentage of pupils by age group, position in January: 1997, 2001 and 2007

		Pupils in independent schools					
		Pupils aged 5 to 10					
		1997		*2001*		*2007*	
		Number	*Percentage[2]*	*Number*	*Percentage[2]*	*Number*	*Percentage[2]*
	England	191,440	5.0	205,590	5.4	199,030	5.6
	East of England Government Office Region	20,871	5.1	22,960	5.5	22,800	5.7
	Local authorities with East of England						
902	Bedfordshire[3]	1,734	3.7	s—	s—	s—	s—
820	Bedfordshire[4]	s—	s—	1,757	5.6	1,492	5.0
905	Cambridgeshire[3]	2,184	4.1	s—	s—	s—	s—
873	Cambridgeshire[4]	s—	s—	2,331	5.7	2,455	6.2
915	Essex[3]	6,372	5.2	s—	s—	s—	s—
881	Essex[4]	s—	s—	5,627	5.5	5,524	5.8
919	Hertfordshire	6,287	5.2	7,340	8.6	7,238	9.0
821	Luton	s—	s—	248	1.5	403	2.6
926	Norfolk	2,057	3.8	2,092	3.8	2,257	4.3
874	Peterborough	s—	s—	131	1.0	161	1.2
882	Southend-on-Sea	s—	s—	971	7.4	765	6.2
935	Suffolk	2,237	4.5	2,467	4.9	2,506	5.3
883	Thurrock	s—	s—	0	0.0	0	0.0

Independent schools[1]: Number and percentage of pupils by age group, position in January: 1997, 2001 and 2007

		Pupils in independent schools					
		Pupils aged 5 to 10					
		1997		2001		2007	
		Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]
	Wards within Peterborough:						
	Barnack	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__
	Bretton North	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__
	Central	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__
	Dogsthorpe	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__
	East	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__
	Eye and Thorney	s__	s__	s__	s__	•	•
	Fletton	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__
	Glinton and Wittering	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__
	Newborough	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__
	North	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__
	Northborough	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__
	Orton Longueville	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__
	Orton Waterville	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__
	Orton with Hampton	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__
	Park	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__
	Paston	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__
	Ravensthorpe	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__
	Stanground Central	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__
	Stanground East	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__
	Walton	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__
	Werrington North	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__
	Werrington South	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__
	West	80	7.9	131	9.5	159	14.8

		Pupils in independent schools					
		Pupils aged 11 to 15					
		1997		2001		2007	
		Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]
	England	214,350	7.2	217,620	6.9	232,620	7.3
	East of England Government Office Region	23,266	7.2	23,830	6.9	26,280	7.3
	Local authorities with East of England						
902	Bedfordshire[3]	2,610	7.3	s__	s__	s__	s__
820	Bedfordshire[4]	s__	s__	2,479	9.5	2,606	9.7
905	Cambridgeshire[3]	3,230	7.7	s__	s__	s__	s__
873	Cambridgeshire[4]	s__	s__	3,296	10.2	3,383	10.0
915	Essex[3]	3,048	3.3	s__	s__	s__	s__
881	Essex[4]	s__	s__	2,977	3.6	3,454	4.0
919	Hertfordshire	8,160	12.1	8,607	11.8	9,683	12.7
821	Luton	s__	s__	28	0.2	292	2.3
926	Norfolk	2,619	6.0	2,542	5.5	2,669	5.5
874	Peterborough	s__	s__	114	1.0	143	1.2
882	Southend-on-Sea	s__	s__	205	2.0	289	2.6
935	Suffolk	3,599	9.1	3,577	8.5	3,763	8.7
883	Thurrock	s__	s__	0	0.0	0	0.0
	Wards within Peterborough:						
	Barnack	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__
	Bretton North	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__	s__

	Pupils in independent schools					
	Pupils aged 11 to 15					
	1997		2001		2007	
	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]	Number	Percentage[2]
Central	s	s	s	s	s	s
Dogsthorpe	s	s	s	s	s	s
East	s	s	s	s	s	s
Eye and Thorney	s	s	s	s	0	0.0
Fletton	s	s	s	s	s	s
Glinton and Wittering	s	s	s	s	s	s
Newborough	s	s	s	s	s	s
North	s	s	s	s	s	s
Northborough	s	s	s	s	s	s
Orton Longueville	s	s	s	s	s	s
Orton Waterville	s	s	s	s	s	s
Orton with Hampton	s	s	s	s	s	s
Park	s	s	s	s	s	s
Paston	s	s	s	s	s	s
Ravensthorpe	s	s	s	s	s	s
Stanground Central	s	s	s	s	s	s
Stanground East	s	s	s	s	s	s
Walton	s	s	s	s	s	s
Werrington North	s	s	s	s	s	s
Werrington South	s	s	s	s	s	s
West	127	9.6	114	100.0	143	10.6

s = 1 or 2 pupils or a rate based on 1 or 2 pupils
[1] Excludes City Technology Colleges and Academies.
[2] The number of pupils attending independent schools expressed as a percentage of the number of pupils across all schools in same age group.
[3] Before local government reorganisation.
[4] After local government reorganisation.
[5] Not applicable
Source:
School Census

Schools: Buildings

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method rating is of each school that has opened so far under the *(a)* Academies Programme and *(b)* Building Schools for the Future programme. [159889]

Jim Knight: The information required to provide a full response to this question is not held centrally. However, our records show that the numbers of schools that have registered for BREEAM Schools certification in the United Kingdom as at 1 October 2007 is 601 schools. 20 schools have now completed the assessment process: six schools were rated as very good, 11 were rated good and three rated at pass level.

Schools: Construction

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which schools *(a)* have closed and *(b)* are planned to close to be replaced with new schools under the (i) Building Schools for the Future programme and (ii) Academies programme. [159912]

Jim Knight: The following schools have closed and become academies:

South Luton; Archbishop Michael Ramsey Technology College; George Salter High; Shireland Language College; Halyard High; St. David and St. Katherine CofE High School; Ducie High School; Willesden High School; Djanogly City Technology College and Forest School;. TP Riley School;) Brackenhoe Comprehensive and Coulby Newham Schools; Warwick Park School; Edgware School; Canon Williamson CofE School; Our Lady's Catholic High School; Dixons City Technology College; Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham College; Thorne Grammar School; Macmillan City Technology College; Agnes Stewart and Braim Wood; Landau Forte City Technology College; Whitesmore School; Thamesmead Community College;) Keldholme and Langbaurgh schools; St. George Community College; Compton Sports College; Evelyns Community School; Waverley Girls School; Thamesbridge Community College; Mitcham Vale; McEntee; North Westminster Community School; Tamworth Manor High School; Gateway Community College; Madeley Court; Stanley Technical High School for Boys; Harris City Technology College; Bradford Cathedral Community College; St. Mary Magdalene Primary School; St. Joseph's Academy and Our Lady of Lourdes Primary School; the DT City Technology College; Speedwell; Bacons City Technology College; Queen Elizabeth School; William Hulme's Grammar School; Belvedere Girls School; Avondale High School;

Southfields Infants School and Newry Junior School; Hereward Community College, Deacon's School and John Mansfield School; Leigh City Technology College; The Channel School; Oldborough Manor and Senacre Technology College; Cornwallis; Southlands; Headlands; Montgomery; Wintringham School; Drayton; Havelock; Eastbourne Comprehensive School; The Immingham School; John Cabot City Technology College; and Walworth School.

The closure of maintained schools is the responsibility of local authorities. However, we understand that local authorities plan to close the following schools, to be replaced by academies:

Pennywell School and Quarry View School; Castle View School; Hylton Red House; Minster College, St. Georges CofE Middle, Danley Middle and Cheyne Middle schools; Accrington Moorhead; Abraham Darby; Stamford High and Hartshead College; Hengrove Community Arts College; Hope High; High Ridge School; Littlemoss High Boys; Droylsden School Mathematics and Computing School for Girls; Parklands High School; Brookway; Heartlands School; Shenley Court; Harborne Hill School; River Leen and Henry Mellish; William Sharp School; North Manchester Boys and North Manchester Girls; Plant Hill High School; Shirebrook School; St. Albans; City of Lincoln; Hereford Waldorf School; Darwen Moorland High School; Sherwood Hall School and Girls School; Sixth Form Centre; Ehenside and Wyndham Schools; Geoffrey Chaucer Technology College and Joseph Lancaster Primary School; North Cumbria Technology College and St. Aidans School; Wyebridge Sports College; Joseph Ruston Technology College; Chalvedon and Barstable Schools; Heartsease High School; Islington Green; Peers School Specialist Technology College; Priory LSST; Palmer High School; Rhodesway School; Withins School; Willingsworth; Chalvedon and Barstable Schools; South Beach First School; Kings Manor Community College; Castledown School; Whitby High School; Cheshire Oaks High School and Ellesmere Port School; Littlehampton Community School; Waverley Boys; Boundstone Community College; The Skinners' Company School for Girls; Hirst High School; St. Aelred's College, and Newton-le-Willows High; Sidney Stringer; West Gate Community College; Langleywood; Dartmouth High School; Withywood Community School; Woodway Park School and Community College; Corby Community College; and the Sir Frank Markham School.

In addition, the following independent schools and City Technology Colleges plan to close and become academies:

Bristol Cathedral School; Brooke Weston City Technology College; The Kinghurst City Technology College; and Colston's Girls' School.

As part of the BSF programme, we understand that the following schools in Waves 1-4 of the programme (mainstream, special and pupil referral units) are being considered for closure by local authorities, or have formally been proposed for closure. This includes schools which are amalgamating to form a new school or which are closing and being rebuilt on a new site. Final decisions on many of these schools have yet to be made, and closure proposals may still be subject to local consultation.

Edward Sheerien School; Holgate School and Sports College; The Foulstone School; Willowgarth High School; The Kingstone School; Wombwell High; Royston High; Priory School and Sports College; Fernhurst Secondary SEBD School; Beardwood High School; Braithwaite Special School; Chapel Grange School; Haycliffe School; Thom Park; Bolling Special School; Ickburgh School; Horizon School; Stormont House School; Crusoe House School; Daniel House PRU; Moselle School; William C Harvey School; The Heathcote School; Ruffwood School; Knowsley Hey School; Brookfield High School; Halewood College; Higher Side Community Comprehensive School; Bowring Community Sports College; Prescot School; St. Edmund of Canterbury Catholic High School; St. Thomas Becket Catholic High School; St. Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School; All Saints Catholic High School; Nelson Maries Hill Centre; Burnley Ivy Bank High; Brierfield Mansfield High School; Burnley Towncley High School; Burnley Walshaw High School; Burnley Barden High School; Gawthorpe High School; Nelson Walton High School; Nelson Edge End High School; Burnley Habergham High School; St. Hilda's Roman Catholic Girls' High School; Burnley St. Theodore's Catholic Sports College; Burnley Calder View Special School; Burnley Primrose Hill School; Burnley Westway School; Gibfield School; Nelson Townhouse School; West Leeds High School; Wortley High School; Hall Garth Community Arts College; King's Manor School; The Newlands Catholic School FCJ; St. David's Roman Catholic Technology College; South Leys Business and Enterprise College; Thomas Sumpter School; Fairham Community College; Haywood School; Shepherd School; Aspley Wood School; Nethergate School; Balderstone Technology College; Heywood Community High School; Moorside High School; The Clifton Centre; The Grosvenor Centre; The Broadwalk PRU; Swinton High School; Langley High School; East Hill Secondary School; Oakes Park School; Merstone School; Forest Oak School; Brinkburn School; Mitchell High School; Usworth School; Two Trees Sports College; Egerton Park Arts College; Warwick School for Boys; and Aveling Park School.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1704W, on the Building Schools for the Future programme: private finance initiative (PFI), if he will list the 30 new build schools under construction; what the capacity is of each new school in pupil numbers; and what the total cost is of the construction of each school, in capital funding allocated or total cost over the lifetime of the PFI contract for the construction element. [160002]

Jim Knight: Since the answer of 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1704W, the number of new build schools under construction or undergoing site preparation works has increased to 36. These are listed in the following table.

Local authority	*School*	*Procurement route*	*Number of pupils*	*Capital expenditure (£ million)*
Bradford	Salt	PFI	1,500	20.4
Bradford	Tong	PFI	1,600	20.9
Bradford	Buttershaw	PFI	1,600	22.9
Bristol	Whitefield	PFI	1,100	16.7
Bristol	Brislington	PFI	1,750	27.1
Bristol	Hartcliffe	PFI	1,200	23.4
Knowsley	North Huyton Joint Faith	PFI	900	14.2
Knowsley	Prescott and Whiston	PFI	1,200	18.1
Knowsley	Halewood	PFI	1,400	23
Lambeth	Michael Tippett Special	Conv	80	11.8
Lancashire	Burnley Sixth form	PFI	600	14.2
Lancashire	Pendle Vale	PFI	1,050	16.8
Lancashire	Pendle Vale Special	PFI	100	5.9
Lancashire	Shuttleworth	PFI	1,050	18.6
Leeds	Allerton High	PFI	1,150	16.3
Leeds	Pudsey Grangefield	PFI	1,150	17.2

Local authority	School	Procurement route	Number of pupils	Capital expenditure (£ million)
Leeds	Rodillian	PFI	1,250	18.3
Leeds	Allerton Grange	PFI	1,500	22.6
Leicester	Judgemeadow	PFI	1,200	15.9
Leicester	Soar Valley	PFI	1,300	20.2
Lewisham	Sedgehill	PFI	1,750	36.2
Manchester	Cedar Mount	Conv	900	14.1
Manchester	Melland Special	Conv	100	9.8
Manchester	Piper Hill Special	Conv	100	9.7
Manchester	Our Lady's RC	Conv	750	11.4
Manchester	Meade Hill Special	Conv	50	5.3
Manchester	New Special School	Conv	100	9.7
Newcastle	Walbottle	PFI	2,150	27.6
Newcastle	Sir Charles Parsons Special	PFI	150	8.2
Sheffield	Newfield	PFI	1,150	18.3
Sheffield	Silverdale	PFI	1,200	20.7
Sheffield	Talbot Special	PFI	100	9.9
Solihull	Park Hall	PFI	1,400	22.2
Solihull	Smith's Wood	PFI	1,400	23.6
Solihull	Lanchester	PFI	100	5.4
Waltham Forest	Bremer	PFI	900	20.1

Schools: East of England

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department plans to spend per school pupil in each local education authority in the East of England in 2007-08; and how much was spent in each academic year since 1997-98. [159215]

Jim Knight: The revenue funding figures per pupil aged 3-19 for each local authority in the East England for years 1997-98 to 2005-06 are as follows. These figures are in real terms:

Local authority	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06
Bedfordshire	2,950	2,990	3,110	3,380	3,560	3,670	3,720	3,860	4,060
Cambridgeshire	2,790	2,860	3,010	3,210	3,330	3,410	3,580	3,730	3,920
Essex	3,040	3,080	3,190	3,420	3,580	3,680	3,770	3,920	4,080
Hertfordshire	3,050	3,080	3,180	3,410	3,560	3,670	3,730	3,880	4,030
Luton	3,240	3,270	3,440	3,670	3,850	3,980	4,150	4,280	4,510
Norfolk	2,950	2,980	3,110	3,340	3,500	3,600	3,680	3,830	4,020
Peterborough	3,030	3,100	3,260	3,480	3,610	3,760	3,950	4,150	4,340
Southend-on-Sea	3,140	3,160	3,280	3,520	3,700	3,810	3,870	4,030	4,200
Suffolk	2,890	2,900	3,010	3,230	3,370	3,470	3,540	3,690	3,860
Thurrock	3,190	3,240	3,350	3,580	3,770	3,880	3,990	4,170	4,280

Notes:

1. Price Base: Real terms at 2005-06 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 27 September 2006.
2. Figures reflect relevant sub-blocks of standard spending assessment/education formula spending (EFS) settlements and exclude the pensions transfer to EFS and LSC.
3. Total funding also includes all revenue grants in DFS departmental expenditure limits relevant to pupils aged 3-19 and exclude education maintenance allowances (EMAs) and grants not allocated at LEA level. For those authorities in receipt of advance of grant under the transitional support arrangements for 2004-05, advance grant funding is included in the year of payment (2004-05). There will be a consequential reduction in DFS grant for these LEAs in future years (either 2006-07 and 2007-08 or 2006-07 to 2008-09, depending on the terms on which the advance was given to the LEA).
4. The pupil numbers used to convert £ million figures to £ per pupil are those underlying the SSA/EFS settlement calculations plus PLASC three year old maintained pupils and estimated 3 to 4 year-olds funded through state support in maintained and other educational institutions where these are not included in the SSA pupil numbers.
5. Rounding: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
6. Some of the grant allocations have not been finalised. If these do change, the effect on the funding figures is expected to be minimal.
7. 1997-98 figures for authorities subject to local government reorganisation in that year have been estimated, pro-rata to their post LGR figures.

The revenue per pupil figures shown in the following table is taken from the new dedicated schools grant (DSG) and is in cash terms. They are not comparable with those for the years 1997-98 to 2005-06 because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The 1997-98 to 2005-06 figures are based on education formula spending (EPS) which formed the education part of the local government finance settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. The DSG is based largely on an authority's previous spending. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS. EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's local government finance settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable. An alternative time series is currently under development.

To provide a comparison for 2006-07 DSG, the Department have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06; as described above this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year. Further the revenue grants figure is provisional and does not include grants allocated by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC).

The figures are for all funded pupils aged 3 to 15 and are in cash terms:

£

Local authority	2005-06 DSG Baseline plus grants	2006-07 DSG plus grants	2007-08 DSG plus grants
Bedfordshire	3,986	4,223	4,133
Cambridgeshire	3,735	3,977	4,059
Essex	3,946	4,179	4,222
Hertfordshire	4,075	4,297	4,163
Luton	4,197	4,514	8,711
Norfolk	3,918	4,141	4,192
Peterborough	4,279	4,558	4,513
Southend-on-Sea	4,222	4,453	4,405
Suffolk	3,844	4,084	4,070
Thurrock	4,014	4,255	4,547

Notes:

1. The revenue funding per pupil figures only run to 2005-06 because we cannot provide a consistent time series beyond that year as the introduction of the dedicated schools grant (DSG) in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded. The 1998-99 to 2005-06 figures are based on education formula spending (EPS) which formed the education part of the local government finance settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. In 2006-07 funding for schools changed with the introduction of the DSG which is based largely on an authority's previous spending.
2. In addition, DSG has a different coverage to EFS: EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's local government finance settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. This means we have a break in our time series as the two sets of data are not comparable, an alternative time series is currently under development.
3. To provide a comparison for 2006-07 DSG, we have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06; as described above this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year.

Schools: Nurses

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many vacancies for school nurses there are in each local education authority; and how many of those vacancies are for full-time positions. [160095]

Jim Knight: The information requested is not collected centrally.

The Government are committed to resourcing Primary Care Trusts to provide at least one full-time, year round, qualified school nurse working with each cluster or group of primary schools and the related secondary school, taking account of health needs and school populations. It is for the Primary Care Trust to determine the numbers of school nurses required in each area and to recruit people to those posts. In 2006 there were nearly 3,000 School Nursing Service Nurses employed by PCTs to work in schools in England. Of these nurses, 1,129 had a school nurse qualification. This is an increase of 186 (19.7 per cent.) on 2005. (Latest available figures—full figures available from the NHS Information centre).

In addition to the PCT nurses, schools and local authorities sometimes employ their own medical staff directly. In January 2007 the School Census showed there were around 1,600 "matrons/nurses/medical staff" in local authority maintained schools. However, it is not possible to separate out the number of nurses from this combined total. Local authorities and schools that wish to make such appointments determine for themselves what kind of health practitioners they need and in what numbers and these figures are not collected centrally.

Schools: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many complaints his Department received in each of the last 12 months on private finance initiative arrangements in schools. [159888]

Jim Knight: The Department does not centrally collate correspondence received specifically into different categories.

Schools: Renewable Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what advice he has received from the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the installation of renewable energy generation in new schools; and if he will make a statement. [159390]

Jim Knight: The Department is working closely with BERR and a number of other Government Departments on the installation of renewable energy in all schools, including new school buildings.

The Department has received specific advice from the Biomass Implementation Advisory Group, a joint DEFRA/BERR initiative, on technical issues surrounding the use of biomass and the availability and use of wood fuels and other energy crops as a source of renewable heat.

We have also recently worked with BERR in developing their Draft Strategy for Sustainable Construction (currently out to consultation) which proposes a timetable for carbon reductions from new buildings which will require a significant contribution from renewable and other low carbon sources of energy. We have also been advised of the opportunities to invest in projects to help meet these targets through the BERR funded Low-Impact Buildings Innovation Platform.

BERR have previously developed programmes for primary and secondary schools to provide information and teaching resources about eight key renewable energy sources, and in 2006 DCSF and BERR jointly hosted a workshop to explore how Low Carbon Buildings Programme funding could be utilised within school buildings.

Schools: Shropshire

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will increase funding for schools in Shropshire to the national average. [159164]

Jim Knight: Education is a top priority for the Government and has been backed with substantial increases in school funding, from which all local authority areas have benefited. Between 1997-98 and

2005-06, total revenue funding for pupils aged three to 19 in Shropshire went up by £1,090 per pupil in real terms, an increase of 38 per cent.

The Government must ensure an equitable distribution between authorities of the total available nationally for schools each year; this means that the funding each area receives reflects the needs of that area. Some areas, particularly inner city areas, receive additional funding because it costs more to recruit and retain teachers and other members of staff in these areas. Others receive additional funding as they are sparsely populated, with many small, rural primary schools that are more expensive to run.

The main reason for differences in funding levels is the emphasis placed on targeting funding to disadvantaged pupils who are likely to need extra support if they are to have an equal chance to succeed. This year 7.2 per cent. of Shropshire's funding is for additional educational needs including deprivation compared with 12.0 per cent. nationally. That is reflected in the level of school funding the authority receives.

The school funding settlement for 2006-08 gave Shropshire an increase in its DSG of 6.6 per cent. per pupil in 2006-07 (compared with its spending in 2005-06) and a further increase of 6.4 per cent. per pupil in 2007-08. This gave Shropshire guaranteed funding per pupil of £3,339 in 2006-07 and £3,551 this year.

Schools themselves were guaranteed minimum increases in their per pupil funding for both years. The guarantee for 2006-07 was an increase of 4 per cent. per pupil for nursery and primary schools (recognising the full year cost of implementing workforce reform in these schools), and 3.4 per cent. for secondary and special schools. For 2007-08, the guaranteed minimum increase is 3.7 per cent. per pupil for all schools.

The school funding settlement for 2006-08 gives schools in all areas of the country the secure and predictable base they need to deliver a wider and more personalised offer to all their pupils.

Specialist Schools: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the evidential basis is for his statement on 10 July 2007 that specialist schools are driving up standards across the country. [149938]

Jim Knight: The evidence shows that specialist status is linked to higher results at GCSE whether this is on the 5+A*-C measure, VA or CVA. Some of the main research reports are:

A Study of the Specialist Schools Programme, Institute of Education, university of Warwick, 2004

Evaluating the Effectiveness of Specialist Schools1 Levacic and Jenkins, Centre for Economics of Education, London School of Economics (2004).

Specialist Schools—What do we know?, Frances Castle and Jennifer Evans, Research and Information on State Education, (RISE) 2006

The Impact of the Specialist Schools Programme on exam results, Jim Taylor, Working Paper 2007/007, Lancaster university management school, London School of Economics, 2007

Specialist Schools: An Evaluation of Progress and Specialist Schools: a second evaluation 2001 and 2005

The main findings of Ofsted's second evaluation include

"Being a specialist school makes a difference. Working to declared targets, dynamic leadership by key players, a renewed sense of purpose, the willingness to be a pathfinder, targeted used of funding and being part of an optimistic network of like-minded schools all contribute to an impetus and climate for improvement."

Sure Start Programme: Standards

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what targets and indicators for Sure Start are contained in the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) *(a)* 2004 and *(b)* 2007; what steps he plans to take in respect of these targets following recent performance against them; what progress he expects to be achieved by the end of the CSR 2004 reporting period; and if he will make a statement. [160497]

Beverley Hughes: The Comprehensive Spending Review 2004 included four targets for Sure Start. They are:

PSA1

To improve children's communication, social and emotional development so that by 2008 53 per cent. of children reach a good level of development at the end of the Foundation Stage and reduce inequalities between the level of development achieved by children in the 30 per cent. most disadvantaged areas and the rest of England from 16 per cent. to 12 per cent. A good level of development was defined for this measure as achieving six points in each of the Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Communication Language and Literacy Scales.

During 2005 and 2006, the major focus was on improving the accuracy and consistency of the assessments against the FSP being undertaken in every local authority, through a programme of rigorous moderation assessments against the Foundation Stage Profile. It is encouraging that we are starting to see results move in the right direction after these improvements with a small increase in 2007 from 44 per cent. to 45 per cent. of children achieving a good level of development.

The gap between the most disadvantaged areas and the rest remained around 17 per cent. However this shows that the performance of the most disadvantaged groups has kept pace with improvements for the rest. We know that it will take time for our policies and programmes to have full impact but believe that investing for the long term is essential if we are to improve the life chances of the most disadvantaged children.

The Government are committed to investing in early education—we have invested over £21 billion in the early years, and will spend an additional £4 billion in the next spending period to give all children the best start in life and to narrow the gap between the most disadvantaged and the rest. That is why we have established over 1,500 Sure Start Children's Centres in the most disadvantaged areas in the country, and are committed to having one in every community by 2010.

We have also provided guidance to children's centres on how they can reach out to their most vulnerable and disadvantaged children.

PSA2A

As a contribution to reducing the proportion of children living in households where no one is working, the target is by 2008 to increase the stock of Ofsted-registered child care by 10 per cent.

This target has already been met. A stock of 1.21 million registered child care places was necessary to meet the target of 10 per cent growth above the March 2004 baseline. In June 2007, there was a stock of 1.28 million registered child care places, which represented an increase of 17 per cent. from March 2004.

The target has been met but work is required to ensure that a sufficient level of stock is maintained. The main focus now is on sustainability of child care, and improving quality, accessibility and affordability, rather than the creation of additional places. The new duty on local authorities to complete assessments of the sufficiency of child care by March 2008 will help them identify unmet need, in advance of their duty to secure sufficient child care for working parents which comes into force the following month.

PSA2B

The target is to increase the take-up of formal child care by children in lower income working families by 120,000 by March 2008.

We are currently unable to assess performance as the necessary data will not be available until next year. However, we are working closely with delivery partners on key levers to achieve the target which include:

Increasing take up of the working tax credit (WTC) where take up among potentially eligible groups is low;

Jobcentre Plus promoting child care as part of packages to get people back into work;

The role of children's centres and extended schools in providing child care in disadvantaged areas and promoting its take up through outreach;

Improving take up of the three and four-year-old free entitlement, where overall take up is high, but significantly lower among lower income families;

Maximising the impact of specific initiatives such as the free entitlement pilot for two-year-olds and the London Childcare Affordability Programme.

PSA2C

The PSA2C target to introduce a light touch approval scheme, with 3,500 new approved carers by March 2008 was met in December 2006.

The Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 includes two targets directly related to outcomes for children aged 5:

PSA10

To increase the proportion of young children achieving a good level of development at the end of the Early Years Foundation Stage by an additional 4 percentage points from 2008 results, by 2011. A good level of development is defined for this measure by a total points score of at least 78 across all 13 Early Years Foundation Stage Profile scales—with at least six in each of the communication, language and literacy and personal, social and emotional development scales.

PSA11

To reduce the percentage gap between the mean average performance of the lowest achieving 20 per cent. and the median score of all children by 3 percentage points from 2008 results, by 2011.

Teachers: Vacancies

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time teacher vacancies there were in local authority maintained (i) primary and (ii) secondary schools in (A) England, (B) the South East and (C) Hampshire constituencies in each year since 2000. [160226]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 23 October 2007]:* The following table provides full and part-time teacher vacancy numbers in local authority maintained primary and secondary schools in England, the South East and Hampshire local authorities in January 2000 to 2007. This information is not available for individual constituencies.

Full-time[1] and part-time vacancy[2] numbers in local authority maintained nursery/primary and secondary schools in the South East Region, Hampshire local authority and England, in January 2000 to 2007

	South East Region				Hampshire local authority				England			
	Nursery and primary		Secondary		Nursery and primary		Secondary		Nursery and primary		Secondary	
	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
January												
2000	269	—	250	—	89	—	53	—	1,420	—	1,246	—
2001	420	—	548	—	82	—	85	—	2,110	—	2,586	—
2002	274	—	425	—	31	—	40	—	1,796	—	2,447	—
2003	196	—	420	—	27	—	47	—	1,114	—	2,050	—
2004	111	20	272	48	11	7	19	10	778	133	1,627	191
2005	87	25	267	40	5	5	26	6	743	134	1,553	201
2006	72	19	269	30	4	1	25	4	709	146	1,340	154
2007	86	14	235	35	7	0	21	3	658	101	1,214	151

[1] Advertised vacancies for full-time permanent appointments (or appointments of at least one term's duration). Includes vacancies being filled on a temporary basis of less than one term.

[2] Part-time vacancies were not collected prior to 2004.

Source:

DCSF Annual 618g Survey

Teaching Aids: Climate Change

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government intend to take in response to the judgment in the case of Stuart Dimmock *v.* the Secretary of State for Education and Skills on the showing of Al Gore's film on climate change, An Inconvenient Truth, in schools in England; and if he will make a statement. [160454]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 23 October 2007]:* The Department will be sending a hard copy of the revised guidance accompanying the climate change pack (which includes a copy of the Al Gore film) to secondary schools as directed by Mr. Justice Burton in his ruling of 10 October.

Vocational Training: Females

Clive Efford: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps his Department and the Learning and Skills Councils are taking to ensure the learning and skills sector meets the needs of young women; and if he will make a statement; [154445]

(2) what steps his Department and the Learning and Skills Councils are taking to ensure equality of access leading to equality of work opportunities for young women: [154446]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

Gaining new skills and qualifications, learning and training are—alongside finding work—the most powerful ways individuals can transform their life chances and those of their families.

Working with the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), we are committed to ensure our policies act to narrow gaps in attainment and participation where these gaps are detrimental to social justice and economic success. Specific commitments to equality and action to narrow gaps in the learning and skills sector, including equality of access and outcomes for young women, are set out in a number of documents, for example:

The former Department for Education and Skills (DfES) Gender Equality Scheme, the Department for Trade and Industry's (DTI) Equality Scheme and associated action plans, published in April 2007;

The LSC's Single Equality Scheme also published in April 2007; and

The Skills Strategy Equality Impact Assessment, published in June 2007.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the number of adult education courses available in the UK in each year since 1997. [155092]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* Funding for further education (FE) increased by 48 per cent. in real terms between 1997-98 and 2005-06. Spending on adult learning continues to increase with over £3 billion in 2007-08, up 7 per cent. on 2005-06. We have chosen to move funding from short, non-accredited learning provision to longer courses focused on those who lack functional literacy and numeracy, and those without a first full level 2 qualification. Most of the reductions in publicly funded adult learning in 2005/06 occurred in lower priority provision (courses outside the national qualifications framework) and very short courses of fewer than nine guided learning hours. We remain committed to ensuring a wide range of learning opportunities for adults. This includes those with learning difficulties and/or disabilities, and learning for its own sake for which we are safeguarding £210 million in 2007-08.

The number of adult learners funded by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) can be derived from the individualised learner record (ILR). The LSC's ILR is a census of activity capturing provision that learners enrol on and not the number of courses that are available to learners. The LSC will fund what people want to study and will work to ensure sufficient capacity is in place to meet the demand.

The following table shows the number of adult learners in further education, work-based learning and adult and community learning funded by the LSC since 2003/04 in England. (Numbers of adult learners elsewhere in the UK may be published separately by Welsh Assembly Government, Scottish Executive and Northern Ireland Department of Education.)

	Number of learners aged 19 and over (Thousand)
2003/04	4,587.8
2004/05	4,547.1
2005/06	3,872.4

Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100.
Source:
Learning and Skills Council (LSC) individualised learner record (ILR).

Changes to the data collection systems, when adult and community learning provision was funded through local authorities, mean that total figures for earlier years are not comparable.

Apprenticeships: Sandwell

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many apprentices there were in Sandwell in 2005-06. [160038]

Mr. Lammy: Figures for those participating in apprenticeships can be derived from the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) individualised learner record (ILR). There were 1,900 learners on apprenticeships and 770 on advanced apprenticeships in Sandwell local authority (based on home post code of the learner) in 2005/06.

Source:

Learning and Skills Council (LSC) work based learning (WBL) individualised learner record (ILR)

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10

Connexions Service: Vocational Guidance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many interventions by the Connexions Service involved *(a)* a

face-to-face meeting with the individual only, *(b)* a telephone call only, *(c)* a text message only, *(d)* an e-mail only, *(e)* a face-to-face meeting and a text message only, *(f)* a face-to-face meeting and an e-mail only, *(g)* a face-to-face meeting and a telephone call only, *(h)* two or more forms of communication but no face-to-face meeting and *(i)* two or more forms of communication in each year since 2003; [156963]

(2) how many interventions made by the Connexions Service were for *(a)* careers or educational advice only, *(b)* other forms of advice only and *(c)* more than one type of advice in each year since 2003; [156966]

(3) what the marginal cost of an intervention by the Connexions Service was by *(a)* a text message, *(b)* an e-mail, *(c)* a telephone call and *(d)* a face-to-face meeting in each year since 2003. [156964]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to my earlier answer (PQ 156965) which gives details of interventions between April 2003 and March 2007.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* text messages, *(b)* e-mails, *(c)* telephone calls and *(d)* face-to-face meetings there were as part of an intervention by the Connexions Service in each year since 2003. [156965]

Bill Rammell: Between April 2003 and March 2007 the Connexions Service had over 17 million interventions with young people. The annual breakdown is given in the following table:

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Total intervention	3,655,579	3,907,592	4,263,594	5,220,021
One to one personal contact	2,671,875	2,716,084	3,035,714	3,765,262
Telephone	672,368	841,371	884,654	978,781
E-mail/letter/text	311,336	350,137	343,226	475,978

Counterfeit Manufacturing: China

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what impact counterfeit goods made in China are having on British businesses. [154694]

Ian Pearson: China does recognise that the intellectual property of companies is being abused, and is committed to addressing the problem. In terms of overall quantities seized, China remains the main source for counterfeit goods imported into the EU, with 79 per cent. of all articles seized by Customs coming from there. However, it should be noted that 60 per cent. of seizures are for counterfeit cigarettes, and in terms of the number of cases, the country breakdown is far more widespread and China only accounts for a third of cases.

We are also conscious that British businesses investing in China may be adversely affected by counterfeiting there. The UK Government continue to raise the issue of intellectual property rights at all levels in all meetings with the Chinese.

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what accounts directions were issued by his Department's predecessors in financial years *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [156624]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation University and Skills' predecessors were DTI and DfES. The accounts directions issued by these two Departments have been summarised in responses prepared to your questions by BERR and DCSF.

Departments: Broadcasting Programmes

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what television programmes have been sponsored by his Department, its predecessors and its executive agencies in each year since 1997. [155625]

Mr. Lammy: The following list gives details of sponsorship deals for the departments and the "arms length bodies" under DIUS's remit since 1997.

Ufl Learndirect have sponsored the following:

This Morning (ITV): September 2000 - March 2002

Who Wants to be a Millionaire (ITV): September 2002 - December 2002

Trisha (ITV): January 2003 - May 2003

This Morning (ITV): September 2003 - July 2004

Risking it All (Ch 4): April 2004 - May 2004

Wild at Heart (ITV1): 12 February - 5 March 2006

The Royal (ITV1): 12 March - 16 April 2006

Heartbeat (ITV1): 23 April - 7 March 2006

The Jeremy Kyle Show: 13 February 2006 - 28 September 2007

There was an advertiser funded programme project for UK Online for Business (DTI) in June 2003. This went out on ITV Carlton region only.

There was also an advertiser funded programme for Investors in People (DFES) which was called In Good Company and went out in September 2004 on ITV1 Carlton region only.

DFES sponsored City Survival Guide on ITV London from January to March 2003. These were a series of eight 90 second programmes for the Adult Basic Skills (Gremlins) campaign.

There is no record of sponsorship activity May 2004 to February 2006. Records of both the subcontracting agents—COI and PHD have been checked and both confirm this gap in sponsorship activity.

Departments: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of people employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are disabled. [153577]

Mr. Lammy: The proportion of people who are disabled in *(a)* the Department and *(b)* its agencies are 8.87 per cent. and 3.13 per cent. respectively.

Declaration of a disability is voluntary.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of staff formerly employed by the Department for Education and Skills are now employed by his Department. [153470]

Mr. Lammy: 69 per cent. of staff in the Department were employed by the former Department for Education and Skills.

Departments: Marketing

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what the cost was of establishing his Department; and how much is accounted for by *(a)* relocation expenses and new building acquisition or rent and *(b)* branding expenses on (i) signs, (ii) stationery and (iii) departmental publications; [147876]

(2) how much has been spent on external consultancy fees involved in the *(a)* relocation and *(b)* branding of his Department, broken down by (i) company involved and (ii) services provided. [147883]

Mr. Lammy: The Department has incurred no relocation costs to date. It will be locating the London-based aspects of the Department to Kingsgate house, Victoria street. Kingsgate house was already part of the Government estate.

We have used the in-house expertise of our executive agency the Intellectual Property Office for advice on branding of DIUS. Where necessary (for specific design work) they have used a specialist agency already on their roster, the cost of which was £12,041 excluding VAT. This cost is inclusive of design work completed for DIUS on signs and stationery.

To date the Department has incurred no external consultancy fees on relocation. The company involved in the consultancy for branding work was 'Bell Design' for graphic design services.

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent by his Department on staff away days in the last 12 months. [153231]

Mr. Lammy: The information is not held centrally in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department is committed to developing staff to reach their full potential and believe that staff away days and team building exercises are beneficial in helping them achieve that.

Education: Prisons

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many prisoners in British prisons obtained *(a)* level 2 qualifications, *(b)* level 3 qualifications, *(c)* level 4 qualifications and *(d)* a university degree during their stay in prison in each year since 1997. [155666]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested was not collected centrally.

The introduction of the Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) from 31 July 2006, means that data on individual offender achievement will increasingly become available for adults, young offenders and juveniles in custody, in England. Data in the format requested will be available from spring 2008 for the academic year 2006/07. Separate arrangements are made for Welsh and Scottish establishments.

Her Majesty's Prison Service annual reports record the following basic skills achievements at level 2:

Financial year	*Number*
2001-02	16,133
2002-03	15,145
2003-04	13,338
2004-05	14,759
2005-06	12,381

Data from the Open University show the following awards to serving prisoners:

Open University

Academic year	*Certificate awards*	*Diploma awards*	*Unclassified degree*	*Honours degree*	*Taught masters*	*Total*
2001/02	14	8	5	11	2	40
2002/03	23	16	5	6	1	51
2003/04	52	11	4	6	0	73
2004/05	90	9	9	7	1	116
2005/06	94	23	11	11	1	140

Further Education: Disabled

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people claiming incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance or disabled living allowance have taken courses at further education colleges in each year since 1997; and how many courses were taken by those people. [156958]

Bill Rammell: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) does not collect specific information on whether learners are claiming incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance or disabled living allowance. The individualised learner record (ILR) does, however, include information on whether learners consider themselves to have a learning difficulty and/or disability. This is reported annually in a Statistical First Release (SFR) published by the LSC since 2002-03. The following table shows the number of starts in further education institutions who

consider and have self-declared themselves to have a learning difficulty and/or disability.

	Starts (thousand)
2002-03	555
2003-04	635
2004-05	655
2005-06	624

Source:
SFRs: Further Education and Work Based Learning—Learner Outcomes in England 2005-06 and 2004-05

Get On Campaign

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the targets of the Get On campaign are; and how much money has been allocated to the campaign. [156596]

Mr. Lammy: The Get On campaign's targets are to raise awareness of literacy and numeracy skills issues, reduce the stigma attached to English and maths skills needs and motivate adults to take action to improve their skills, contributing to the PSA target of 2.25 million adults improving their basic skills and gaining a qualification by 2010.

In terms of awareness, the Get On campaign is one of the most well-known Government advertising campaigns with 93 per cent. of the target audience reporting awareness of it in 2006. In terms of reducing stigma, our ongoing tracking research shows the likelihood of taking a basic skills course among the target audience has increased from 14 per cent. in 2002 to 34 per cent. in 2006. In terms of motivating adults to improve their skills, over 350,000 people have called the helpline in direct response to the campaign, with many more contacting learning providers directly. 1,759,000 adults have improved their skills and gained a qualification since 2001 and we are on course to meet the 2010 PSA target.

In 2006-07, £2,516,000 was allocated to the Get On campaign.

Higher Education

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of university students have parents in the *(a)* A, *(b)* B, *(c)* C, *(d)* C1, *(e)* D and *(f)* E social groupings. [155792]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is shown in the table. The figures include acceptances on full-time undergraduate courses in the academic year 2006/07 for students who applied through the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS). They do not include acceptances on full-time undergraduate courses for students who applied directly to higher education institutions or part-time undergraduate courses.

English domiciled acceptances to full-time undergraduate courses by National Statistics Socio-Economic Classification (NS-SEC)[1], academic year 2006/07

	Number	Percentage[2]
1. Higher managerial and professional occupations	48,529	22.7
2. Lower managerial and professional occupations	66,823	31.2
3. Intermediate occupations	30,649	14.3
4. Small employers and own account workers	15,926	7.4
5. Lower supervisory and technical occupations	10,030	4.7
6. Semi-routine occupations	29,309	13.7
7. Routine occupations	12,577	5.9
Total known	213,843	100.0
8. Unknown	75,386	—
Total	289,229	—

[1] NS-SEC was introduced in 2002/03 and replaced the previous classification based on six social class groups.
[2] Based on those whose NS-SEC is known.
Source:
Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS).

The latest data for English domiciled students applying for entry in 2007 show that the proportion of students from lower socio-economic groups increased slightly compared to the corresponding data in 2006.

Higher Education: Student Numbers

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of young people are undertaking degrees and other advanced courses at universities. [155655]

Bill Rammell: The main measure for tracking progress on increasing participation is currently the Higher Education Initial Participation Rate (HEIPR). This is the sum of the HE initial participation rates for individual ages between 17 and 30 inclusive. It covers English-domiciled first time entrants to HE courses, which are expected to last for at least six months, at UK Higher Education Institutions and English, Scottish and Welsh Further Education Colleges, and who remain on their course for at least six months. The latest available figures are shown in Table 1:

Table 1: Higher Education Initial Participation Rate for 17-30 year olds

	HEIPR: (%)	Number of initial participants
1999/2000	39 (39.3)	239,000
2000/01	40 (39.7)	239,000
2001/02	40 (40.2)	244,000
2002/03	41 (41.2)	255,000
2003/04	40 (40.3)	257,000
2004/05	41 (41.3)	268,000
2005/06	43 (42.8)	283,000

Note:
The HEIPR is usually published to the nearest integer, but the figures are included to one decimal place to inform comparisons over time. Numbers are quoted to the nearest thousand.
Source:
"Participation Rates in Higher Education: Academic Years 1999/2000-2005/06 (Provisional)", published by DfES.

[illegible]s for the young 17-20 age group are shown in Table 2:

Table 2: Higher Education Initial Participation Rate for 17-20 year olds

	HEIPR20: (%)	Number of initial participants
1999/2000	31 (31.3)	188,000
2000/01	32 (31.9)	189,000
2001/02	33 (32.5)	194,000
2002/03	33 (32.7)	201,000
2003/04	32 (31.8)	204,000
2004/05	32 (32.1)	209,000
2005/06	34 (34.0)	226,000

Note:
The HEIPR is usually published to the nearest integer, but the figures are included to one decimal place to inform comparisons over time. Numbers are quoted to the nearest thousand.
Source:
"Participation Rates in Higher Education: Academic Years 1999/2000-2005/06 (Provisional)", published by DfES.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students graduated with a *(a)* first and *(b)* advanced degree in each of the last 15 years. [155663]

Bill Rammell: The available information is given in the table. Information for 1991/92, 1992/93 and 1993/94 is not available on a comparable basis for higher education institutions in England.

Postgraduate and first degrees obtained at higher education institutions in England, 1994/95 to 2005/06

Academic year	Doctorates	Masters	Other postgraduate[1]	First degree
1994/95	6,265	33,045	35,300	196,195
1995/96	8,180	38,545	40,750	207,745
1996/97	8,570	40,065	41,685	211,465
1997/98	9,070	44,370	39,980	212,905
1998/99	9,460	46,865	40,445	217,090
1999/2000	9,615	51,850	40,795	217,995
2000/01	9,625	54,160	44,265	217,655
2000/01[2]	11,600	61,900	50,190	224,125
2001/02	11,750	65,760	53,435	225,850
2002/03	12,270	71,780	53,955	233,285
2003/04	12,765	82,945	59,875	241,030
2004/05	12,950	88,715	58,730	251,025
2005/06	13,730	92,205	59,155	260,630

[1] Includes those obtaining PGCEs, postgraduate bachelors degrees, postgraduate diplomas and certificates.
[2] These figures from 2000/01 include those qualifying from dormant modes of study. In 2000/01, around 25 per cent. of doctorate qualifiers obtained their qualification from a dormant mode of study. To illustrate the difference this makes to the figures, for 2000/01 figures have been provided for both methodologies.
Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) student record.

Mature Students

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of the adult population is participating in university education as mature students. [160178]

Bill Rammell: The table contains the latest available figures for the age specific initial participation rates for ages 17 to 60. The age specific initial participation rates cover English-domiciled first time entrants to HE courses, which are expected to last for at least six months, at UK higher education institutions and English, Scottish and Welsh further education colleges, and who remain on their course for at least six months.

The higher education initial participation rate (HEIPR) is the sum of the age specific initial participation rates for ages 17 to 30. The 2005-06 HEIPR is 43 per cent. and equates roughly to the probability that a 17-year-old will participate in higher education by age 30. The sum of the 2005-06 age specific initial participation rates for ages 17-60 is 53 per cent. and equates roughly to the probability that a 17-year-old will participate in higher education by age 60.

Both students and the general population aged up to 20 are deemed to be young, over 20 mature. The age specific initial participation rates for ages 21 to 60 are therefore indicative of the age participation rates of the mature population. These do not reflect numbers that have participated in higher education, rather, they represent initial participants in higher education in 2005-06.

Individual higher education initial participation rates for 17 to 60 year olds in 2005-06

Age	Rate (percentage)
17	0.3
18	21.3
19	9.7
20	2.6
21	1.4
22	1.1
23	1.0
24	0.9
25	0.8
26	0.8
27	0.8
28	0.7
29	0.7
30	0.6
31	0.6
32	0.6
33	0.6
34	0.5
35	0.6
36	0.5
37	0.5
38	0.5
39	0.5
40	0.4
41	0.4
42	0.4
43	0.4
44	0.4
45	0.3
46	0.3
47	0.3
48	0.3
49	0.2
50	0.2
51	0.2

Individual higher education initial participation rates for 17 to 60 year olds in 2005-06

Age	*Rate (percentage)*
52	0.2
53	0.2
54	0.1
55	0.1
56	0.1
57	0.1

Medical Research Council: Finance

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the total allocated budget is for the Medical Research Council for the years 2008-09 to 2010-11. [157930]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 15 October 2007]*: The following table sets out the Medical Research Council's allocated budget for the years 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Medical Research Council

	(£000)
2008-09	605,538
2009-10	658,472
2010-11	707,025

This compares with a 2007-08 baseline of £543,399,000 and means that in 2010/11 the budget will be 30.1 per cent. higher than it is this year.

Museums: Finance

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what provision he plans to make for core funding of university museums from 2009. [158484]

Bill Rammell: Following the announcement of the Comprehensive Spending Review on 9 October, detailed changes in funding will be determined and announced over the coming months.

Office For Fair Access: Finance

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much the Office of Fair Access cost in each year since it was set up; and what the budget is for the next three years. [155658]

Bill Rammell: The annual cost of the Office for Fair Access since its inception in FY 2004-05 is as follows:

Financial year		*£ million*
2004-05	Outturn	0.41
2005-06	Outturn	0.5
2006-07	Provisional outturn	0.5
2007-08	Budget	0.5

Plans for CSR07 (covering FYs 2008-11) are not finalised and we cannot comment on specific areas of funding. An overall announcement will be made in the near future.

On the basis of OFFA's work processing and agreeing access agreements, some 400,000 students from lower income backgrounds are expected to benefit around £300 million in bursaries and other financial incentives from institutions.

Postgraduate Education: Finance

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what financial support is made available by the Government to support post-graduate students. [160202]

Bill Rammell: A range of financial support measures is made available from the Department and its delivery partners to support post graduate students.

Doctoral students supported by the Research Councils receive a minimum stipend of £12,600 (rising to £12,940 in October 2008). PhD stipends have increased across the board, and enhanced stipends of over £13,000 are used to attract students to areas of recruitment difficulty such as engineering, statistics and informatics, economics, veterinary science. Enhanced stipends are also available through the Collaborative Awards in Science and Engineering scheme for students to undertake research in collaboration with industry.

Research Councils support around 3,000 Masters students annually. Stipend support is provided to HEIs who determine the level per student. For instance, the NERC provide a basic maintenance award of £8,080 in 2007/08.

The Academic Fellowship scheme has been developed to provide 1,000 new fellowships over five years with the Research Councils investing £125,000 in each over a five year period.

The Department provides Initial Teacher Training at post graduate level for students in England. A disabled students allowance is available to postgraduate students, including those on taught Masters.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) provides grants to Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in England for taught Masters courses. Funding in 2007/08 is in the region of £100 million.

The Learning and Skills Council provide Career Development Loans totalling around £20 million to around 3,500 postgraduate learners resident in England each year. Approximately 25 per cent. of Career Development Loans are taken out to support HE courses, primarily postgraduate courses such as Masters Degrees.

Qualifications: Age

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many students aged 20 or over took *(a)* GCSEs and *(b)* A-levels in (i) English Literature, (ii) English Language and (iii) Mathematics in each year since 1997; [156955]

(2) how many students aged 20 or over received *(a)* an A*, *(b)* an A, *(c)* a B, *(d)* a C, *(e)* a D and *(f)* an E grade or less at (i) GCSE and (ii) A-level in (A) English Literature, (B) English Language and (C) Mathematics in each year since 1997. [156956]

Bill Rammell: The following table shows the number of adult (aged 19 plus) starts and achievers of GCSE or GCE A Level in English Literature, English and Mathematics with expected end year 2003/04, 2004/05 and 2005/06. The Learning and Skills Council's (LSC) Further Education (FE) Individualised Learner Record (ILR) was collated for the first time in 2002/03 and figures are given from that time.

	Starters	*Achievers*	*Number of High grades*[1]
2002/03			
GCSE English Literature	335	189	149
GCSE English	13,441	8,009	5,967
GCSE Mathematics	20,209	11,168	7,846
GCE A Level English Literature	296	179	79
GCE A Level English	159	84	41
GCE A Level Mathematics	236	103	42
2003/04			
GCSE English Literature	217	140	110
GCSE English	11,949	7,587	5,838
GCSE Mathematics	18,261	10,962	7,942
GCE A Level English Literature	231	131	59
GCE A Level English	156	83	35
GCE A Level Mathematics	196	121	70
2004/05			
GCSE English Literature	167	122	100
GCSE English	10,909	7,187	5,460
GCSE Mathematics	17,236	10,902	7,863
GCE A Level English Literature	208	124	47
GCE A Level English	101	51	16
GCE A Level Mathematics	125	78	44
2005/06			
GCSE English Literature	154	93	68
GCSE English	10,202	7,080	5,495
GCSE Mathematics	15,566	10,399	7,396
GCE A Level English Literature	132	86	45
GCE A Level English	76	46	20
GCE A Level Mathematics	72	42	24

[1] High grades are A*-C at GCSE and A-B at GCE A Level.
Source:
LSC ILR FE qualification level success rate data

Research: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the total *(a)* private and *(b)* public spending on research and development was as a share of GDP in each year since 1992. [155906]

Ian Pearson: The following table sets out the total expenditure on research and development, as a percentage share of GDP, from both private and public sources for the years 1995 to 2005 (the latest year for which figures are available).

	(a) Private in real terms (£ million)	*(a) Private as percentage of GDP*	*(b) Public in real terms (£million)*	*(b) Public as percentage of GDP*
1995[1]	11,929	1.3	6,084	0.6
1996	11,832	1.2	6,110	0.6
1997	11,828	1.2	5,896	0.6
1998	12,240	1.2	6,005	0.6
1999	13,344	1.3	6,240	0.6
2000	13,430	1.2	6,747	0.6
2001	13,670	1.2	6,648	0.6
2002	13,842	1.2	6,880	0.6
2003	13,655	1.2	7,173	0.6
2004	13,469	1.1	7,307	0.6
2005	13,897	1.1	7,867	0.6

[1] Data on this basis are only published back to 1995. Due to data revisions and updates to base years used for price change adjustments, previously published data showing figures for earlier years are not comparable with this most recent data.
Source:
ONS GERD release, 2005

Student Numbers

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students entered university in each of the last five years. [158758]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is shown in the table. Figures for 2006/07 will be available in January 2008.

Number of entrants to undergraduate courses English higher education institutions[1] : Academic years 2001/02 to 2005/06

Academic year	*Number of entrants*
2001/02	535,440
2002/03	557,830
2003/04	561,685
2004/05	564,805
2005/06	583,100

[1] Excludes the Open University.
Notes:
Figures are on a HESA standard registration population basis and are rounded to the nearest 5.
Figures cover all UK and overseas domiciles and students on full-time and part-time modes of study.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Student Wastage

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students, aged 21 years and under, withdrew from their higher education course in each year since 2003; and for what reasons they withdrew. [155199]

Bill Rammell: The standard measure of non-completion is the proportion of UK-domiciled full-time first degree starters of all ages who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another institution. The available information for higher education institutions in England is shown in table 1.

Table 1: Proportion of UK-domiciled full-time first degree starters at higher education institutions in England, who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another institution

	Percentage
2000/01	15.0
2001/02	13.8
2002/03	13.9
2003/04	14.4
2004/05	13.8

Source:
Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by HESA

The available information on reasons for withdrawing from higher education courses is shown in table 2. This information covers students, aged 21 years and under, leaving first degree courses at English higher education institutions in each year, and includes students in their first, final and intervening years of study, irrespective of the year in which they began their course.

Table 2: UK-domiciled students aged 21 years and under, on first degree courses at English higher education institutions, who left their course

Year student left course	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Successful completion of course	120,350	123,240	126,935	130,480
Transferred to another institution	2,460	2,325	2,440	2,810
Academic failure/left in bad standing/not permitted to progress	5,980	6,215	6,235	6,860
Health reasons	695	710	640	680
Death	80	60	85	75
Financial reasons	585	605	615	610
Other personal reasons and dropped out	8,190	8,035	8,370	8,605
Written off after lapse of time	1,515	1,930	1,965	2,215
Exclusion	245	355	535	555
Gone into employment	835	865	830	880
Other	4,695	4,705	5,030	4,705
Completion of course - result unknown	750	685	490	445
Unknown	1,810	1,440	1,055	1,085
Total who left course early having not transferred	25,380	25,605	25,850	26,715
Total who left in academic year	148,190	151,170	155,225	160,005

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5 so components may not sum to totals.
2. Figures are based on a session population.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

The reason for leaving information on the HESA Student Record should be treated with some caution, because the 'Other personal reasons and dropped out' and 'Other' fields are used extensively throughout the time-series. Institutions are not always able to record the precise reason for leaving. Furthermore, HESA allows only one reason for withdrawal to be recorded, however it is likely that many students leave for a combination of reasons.

Tables 1 and 2 are based on different populations of students. Table 1 covers the cohort of full-time first degree starters of all ages in each year. Table 2 covers full-time and part-time first degree students aged 21 years and under leaving their courses in each year, regardless of the year of study or which year they began their course.

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students left university without finishing their courses in each year since 1997; and how many of these left due to financial reasons. [154964]

Bill Rammell: The standard measure of non-completion is the proportion of UK-domiciled full-time first degree starters of all ages who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another institution. The available information for higher education institutions in England is shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Proportion of UK-domiciled full-time first degree starters at higher education institutions in England, who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another institution

	Percentage
2000/01	15.0
2001/02	13.8
2002/03	13.9
2003/04	14.4
2004/05	13.8

Source:
Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by HESA.

The available information on reasons for withdrawing from higher education courses is shown in Table 2. This information covers students, aged 21 years and under, leaving first degree courses at English higher education institutions in each year, and includes students in their first, final and intervening years of study, irrespective of the year in which they began their course.

Table 2: UK-domiciled students on first degree courses at English higher education institutions, who left their course

		Of which:			Of which:	
Year student left course	Total who left institution	Successful completion	Transferred to another institution	Total who left course early having not transferred	Financial reasons	Other reasons
1997/98	223,200	181,680	3,360	38,155	1,225	36,930
1998/99	220,290	183,300	3,375	33,615	1,550	32,065
1999/2000	229,365	186,650	3,265	39,455	1,345	38,110
2000/01	226,020	185,075	3,160	37,785	1,225	36,560
2001/02	231,450	188,200	3,915	39,335	1,080	38,260
2002/03	237,485	194,080	2,955	40,445	1,220	39,225
2003/04	252,700	207,175	2,845	42,685	1,210	41,475

Table 2: UK-domiciled students on first degree courses at English higher education institutions, who left their course

		Of which:			Of which:	
Year student left course	*Total who left institution*	*Successful completion*	*Transferred to another institution*	*Total who left course early having not transferred*	*Financial reasons*	*Other reasons*
2004/05	261,385	214,295	2,900	44,190	1,280	42,910
2005/06	272,685	223,100	3,975	45,610	1,285	44,325

Notes:
1. The totals in the second column (total who left institution) are made up of the figures in the third, fourth and fifth columns; the totals in the fifth column (total who left course early having not transferred) are made up of the figures in the sixth and seventh columns.
2. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 5 so components may not sum to totals.
3. Figures are based on a session population.

Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

The reason for leaving information on the HESA student record should be treated with some caution, because the 'Other personal reasons and dropped out' and 'Other' fields are used extensively throughout the time-series. Institutions are not always able to record the precise reason for leaving. Furthermore, HESA allows only one reason for withdrawal to be recorded, however it is likely that many students leave for a combination of reasons. The aforementioned figures are therefore likely to show an underestimate of the number of students leaving for financial reasons.

Tables 1 and 2 are based on different populations of students. Table 1 covers the cohort of full-time first degree starters of all ages in each year. Table 2 covers full-time and part-time first degree students aged 21 years and under leaving their courses in each year, regardless of the year of study or which year they began their course.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the dropout rate from university courses was in each of the last 15 years. [155657]

Bill Rammell: The latest available projected non-completion indicators for entrants to full-time first degree courses are shown in the table.

Proportion of UK-domiciled entrants to full-time first degree courses at UK higher education institutions who are projected to neither obtain an award nor transfer to another institution

Academic year	*Percentage*
1996-97	15.8
1997-98	15.7
1998-99	15.8
1999-2000	15.9
2000-01	15.0
2001-02	14.1
2002-03	14.4
2003-04	14.9
2004-05	14.2

Source:
'Performance Indicators in Higher Education', published by HESA

The Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) publishes these projected non-completion indicators in its Performance Indicators in Higher Education publication each year. Figures are not available for earlier years.

Students: East Sussex

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* part-time and *(b)* full-time students registered for higher education courses at universities in East Sussex in each year since 1997. [151358]

Bill Rammell *[pursuant to the reply, 3 September 2007, Official Report, c. 1775-76W]*: The following table amends an error in the figures.

The available information is given in the table. The University of Sussex is the only Higher Education Institution with its headquarters in East Sussex local authority.

Enrolments at the University of Sussex, 1997/98 to 2005/06

	1997/98	*1998/99*	*1999/00*	*2000/01*	*2001/02*	*2002/03*	*2003/04*	*2004/05*	*2005/06*
Postgraduates									
Full time	1,525	1,490	1,420	1,610	1,650	1,680	1,900	1,880	1,855
Part time	680	875	820	870	910	805	785	915	940
Total	2,205	2,365	2,240	2,480	2,560	2,485	2,690	2,790	2,795
Undergraduates									
Full time	6,945	6,985	6,805	6,900	6,945	6,905	6,775	6,815	6,985
Part time	2,350	2,400	1,855	1,535	1,575	1,690	1,640	1,735	1,590
Total	9,295	9,385	8,660	8,435	8,520	8,595	8,415	8,550	8,575
All HE students									
Full time	8,470	8,475	8,225	8,505	8,595	8,585	8,675	8,695	8,840

Enrolments at the University of Sussex, 1997/98 to 2005/06

	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06
Part time	3,025	3,275	2,675	2,405	2,485	2,495	2,430	2,650	2,530
Total	11,495	11,750	10,900	10,915	11,080	11,080	11,105	11,345	11,370

Note:
Figures are on a snapshot basis as at 1 December, excluding those writing up on sabbatical or dormant. This is so that the figures are comparable across all the years. Snapshot figures will exclude students who are not in attendance on the 1 December, i.e. those on non-traditional academic years. Figures are rounded to the nearest 5.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Students: Finance

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the cost of student grants was in each of the last 15 years; and what the estimated cost is for each of the next three years. [155662]

Bill Rammell: The available data are given in the table.

Expenditure on student grants[1] for maintenance: this excludes tuition fee remission grant and special grants for vulnerable students. Students domiciled in England and Wales academic years 1992/93 to 2004/05. Students domiciled in England academic years 2005/06 to 2006/07

Academic year	Expenditure (£ million)
1992/93[2]	1,046
1993/94[2]	1,202
1994/95[2]	1,159
1995/96[2]	1,075
1996/97[2]	948
1997/98[2]	932
1998/99[2]	617
1999/2000[2]	347
2000/01[2]	119
2001/02[2]	31
2002/03[2]	n/a
2003/04[2]	n/a
2004/05[3]	97
2005/06[3]	168
2006/07[4]	462

[1] Data do not include tuition fee remission grants or supplementary grants and allowances; eg for students with disabilities, students with dependents, single parent students, those incurring certain travel costs and those who have recently left care.
[2] Data prior to 2004/05 refer to Mandatory Award scheme students. These arrangements applied to students who entered HE up to 1997/98 who received support for maintenance through means-tested grants. Data were not collected for mandatory award students in 2002/03 and subsequent years because of the low numbers of students involved. These figures are on an England and Wales basis.
[3] In 2004/05 and 2005/06, data refer to Student Support Scheme Students (students entering from 1998/99 who received support for living costs mainly through loans which are partly income-assessed) in receipt of a full or part Higher Education Grant (HEG) which was introduced for new students entering from 2004/05. 2004/05 data cover England and Wales, 2005/06 cover England. Separate England data are not available for earlier years.
[4] The 2006/07 figure is provisional England data covering the HEG and the new Maintenance Grant and Special Support Grant introduced in September 2006.
Source:
DFES F503G survey of local authorities, Student Loans Company (SLC)

Expenditure provision for student grants for maintenance in financial year 2007-08 for English domiciled students is £568 million. It is not possible to provide a FY 2007-08 figure on an academic year basis.

Detail on specific areas of funding for the Spending Review 2007 period is not available at present, but will be available in the near future.

The drop in the number of students receiving a grant from 1998/99 onwards reflects the fact that maintenance grants were replaced by loans for new students, therefore only existing students continued to receive a maintenance grant.

The large rise in the figures shown for 2005/06 and 2006/07 reflects the fact that the Higher Education Grant was introduced in 2004/05 for new students and therefore covered two cohorts in 2005/06. In 2006/07 the HEG was replaced by the Maintenance Grant and Special Support Grant.

Students: Grants

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the change in the number of students per year who will be eligible for a maintenance grant as a result of the policies announced in the statement of 5 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1108-10, on higher education (student support). [158796]

Bill Rammell: The 5th July announcement increases the means-testing threshold below which students are entitled to a full maintenance grant up from £17,910 for entrants in 2007/08—to £25,000 for entrants in 2008/09. The threshold for a partial grant will increase from £38,330 for entrants in 2007/08—to £60,005 for entrants in 2008/09. Details of the increased support package have now been placed in the Members' Library.

By 2010/11 the majority of students will fall under the new regulations. The July announcement included an estimate that, by this point, we expect more than 100,000 additional students will be entitled to some level of maintenance grant, and within this, an additional 50,000 will be entitled to a full grant (worth £2,835 in 2008/09). Exact numbers will depend on household income of students applying for support over the CSR.

Students: Suffolk

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of students who applied for *(a)* student loans and *(b)* grants from Suffolk local education authority for the 2007/08 academic year received them in time for the start of that year; and what the equivalent figures were in the 2006/07 academic year. [159216]

Bill Rammell: By 13 October 2007, Suffolk local authority had received 10,541 student finance applications, of which 87 per cent. had been processed to a point at which loan and grant payments could be released, marginally less than at the same point in 2006, when 92 per cent. of Suffolk's applications had been processed. Students submit one application for their Student Finance entitlement; therefore performance statistics do not distinguish between loans and grants.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 25 October 2007

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Management and Services of the House of Commons Review

Mr. Doran: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the Commission has decided on the implementation of the Tebbit review of management and services of the House. [161237]

Nick Harvey: In July the Commission agreed to fast track several areas of the Tebbit Review as detailed in my answer on 24 July 2007 (HC Deb 925W). Following the debate in Westminster Hall on 18 October and comments from the Finance and Services, Administration and Audit Committees, the Commission approved the following changes on 22 October.

A new Management Board replaced the existing Board of Management with immediate effect. The Management Board consists of the Clerk, as Chief Executive and Chairman, four director generals with functional responsibilities, and up to two external advisers. The six House Departments other than PICT will be merged into four new Departments broadly aligned with the Director Generals' responsibilities. These will be:

Department of Chamber and Committee Services—incorporating Clerk's Department, *Hansard* and core elements of the Serjeant's Department;

Department of Information Services—incorporating the Library and allied information services;

Department of Resources—incorporating Finance and Administration;

Department of Facilities—incorporating Estates and Works, Accommodation Services and Refreshment Department.

These new Departments will come into effect on 1 January 2008. A recruitment exercise to fill the new post of Director General of Facilities will be put in place. Pending an appointment, the Commission has agreed that the Director of Catering Services will lead the work to create the new Department of Facilities.

PICT will be formally vested as joint Department of the two Houses early in 2008. Pending a review in 2009 of the working of the Parliament (Joint Departments) Act 2007, the Director of PICT will attend the Management Board as one of its external members.

The aim is to create a fully unified House Service that will provide Members and others with the highest standards of service. The changes are consistent with the approach recommended in the Tebbit report, but also address a number of issues on which the report did not reach a firm conclusion. The intention is that the changes will be cost neutral and there are no planned redundancies. I understand that consultation has begun with both staff and trade unions on how best to create the new Departments.

Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards: Public Appointments

Sir George Young: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what progress has been made by the Commission in nominating a candidate for the post of Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards. [161179]

Nick Harvey: The Commission's report recommending to the House Mr. John Lyon CB, currently the Director General of Legal and Judicial Services in the Ministry of Justice, is being published today at 11 am as House of Commons Paper 1096. Copies are available from the Vote Office. It is expected that the recommendation will be put to the House for approval in early November.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departments: Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what guidance his Department follows on the maximum time taken to respond to hon. Members' correspondence; and what performance against that target was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [158591]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the Cabinet Office answer on 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 45W.

Guatemala: Children

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to help tackle the problem of violence against street children in Guatemala. [160646]

Mr. Malik: In Guatemala between 2004-05 DFID contributed $150,000 through the InterAmerican Development Bank to NGOs working with street children. This funding provided education, psycho-social care and work opportunities.

The British Embassy in Guatemala City has supported many local NGO projects on child rights including a sustainable training programme for police officers in the city centre. This aims to improve officers' dealings with street children, ensure the inclusion of child rights in the Police Academy training curriculum and encourage efforts to bring child abusers to justice.

Overseas Aid: Forestry

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much support the UK made available to help developing countries with forestry programmes and reafforestation projects in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; and what proportion of the (i) total international development budget and (ii) UK bilateral aid each figure represented in each year. [160229]

Mr. Thomas: In 2005-06 £15 million of DFID bilateral expenditure was spent directly on forestry programmes. This represented 0.35 per cent. of the total DFID programme and 0.62 per cent. of the bilateral programme in 2005-06. In 2006-07 a further £15 million of DFID bilateral expenditure was spent

directly on forestry programmes representing 0.31 per cent. of the total DFID programme and 0.60 per cent. of the bilateral programme in that year. These figures do not include spending on forestry programmes funded by partner governments to whom we provide budget support, nor do they include spending through the multilateral system to which we also contribute.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many academies opened *(a)* before and *(b)* after September 2005 have exceeded budgets for (i) new buildings and (ii) start up costs; [160374]

(2) what percentage of academies opened since September 2005 have exceeded budgets for *(a)* new buildings and *(b)* start up costs; [160375]

(3) what the average amount is by which academies opened since September 2005 have exceeded original budgets for *(a)* new buildings and *(b)* start up costs. [160376]

Jim Knight: There are now 83 academies open. Up to and including September 2005, 27 academies were opened, with the remaining 56 academies opening between September 2006 and September 2007 (inclusive). Of the 27 academies which opened up to and including September 2005, 16 (59 per cent.) have exceeded their budgets for new buildings. Of the 56 academies opening between September 2006 and September 2007 (inclusive), 13 (23 per cent.) have exceeded their budgets for new buildings. For those academies opened between September 2006 and September 2007 (inclusive) that have exceeded their original budgets for new buildings, the average overspend is £3,850,536[1].

Academies are allocated fixed budgets to cover start up costs, which they are free to apply as they see fit. There are two types of start up grant. The first is intended to cover expenditure to acquire a basic stock of books and equipment. All academies are paid this grant by a formula which is based mainly on pupil numbers.

The second is paid to meet costs arising in the first years of an academy and comprises two elements, one of which is allocated by formula and the other, for which academies must bid, to cover exceptional transitional costs.

[1] The number and percentage of academy building projects exceeding their agreed budgets for buildings, and the average overspend is subject to change, as not all open academy building projects have been completed.

Academies: Governing Bodies

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will take steps to increase local authority representation on the governing bodies of academies, with particular reference to cases where the authority is a sponsor. [160828]

Jim Knight: All academies have at least one local authority representative on their governing body. Where the local authority is a co-sponsor, the lead sponsor retains majority control over the Academy Trust, but can appoint two local authority appointed governors to the governing body.

Literacy: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of children met the Government's literacy and numeracy targets in each London borough in each of the last five years. [153557]

Jim Knight: The following tables set out the percentage of pupils in each London borough achieving the target level 4 and above at key stage 2, and level 5 and above at key stage 3 in English and in maths for each year since 2002. The underlying numbers can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Percentage of pupils achieving level 4 or above in KS2 tests

	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	English	*Maths*	*English*	*Maths*	*English*	*Maths*	*English*	*Maths*	*English*	*Maths*
London GOR	73	72	76	72	77	73	79	74	80	75
City of London	93	89	97	79	80	73	83	74	64	71
Inner London boroughs	68	68	72	68	74	70	76	71	77	72
Camden	72	70	78	74	77	73	79	73	75	72
Hackney	65	65	63	59	70	65	69	64	71	64
Hammersmith and Fulham	74	76	79	76	77	73	79	74	81	74
Haringey	65	66	67	66	70	67	73	68	75	70
Islington	68	67	69	68	71	68	74	68	74	68
Kensington and Chelsea	80	79	84	79	87	82	84	81	85	80
Lambeth	67	67	72	67	76	70	76	68	78	70
Lewisham	69	66	73	69	73	70	77	72	79	71
Newham	63	68	68	67	71	70	75	72	76	72
Southwark	66	62	70	62	69	64	72	67	74	69
Tower Hamlets	70	67	74	71	77	75	78	76	80	78

Percentage of pupils achieving level 4 or above in KS2 tests

	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	English	*Maths*	*English*	*Maths*	*English*	*Maths*	*English*	*Maths*	*English*	*Maths*
Wandsworth	73	72	75	67	75	71	80	72	78	73
Westminster	77	77	80	77	82	77	81	76	84	76
Outer London boroughs	75	74	78	73	79	75	80	76	81	76
Barking and Dagenham	69	73	71	69	73	71	75	70	74	73
Barnet	81	79	81	78	84	81	84	81	85	82
Bexley	75	72	77	69	79	71	80	74	81	75
Brent	74	75	77	72	78	74	78	73	79	73
Bromley	80	77	83	78	83	78	84	77	85	79
Croydon	74	71	78	71	79	74	78	72	81	75
Ealing	74	74	77	73	78	73	79	75	79	75
Enfield	73	74	78	72	77	73	77	73	79	72
Greenwich	68	66	70	67	70	68	73	68	74	71
Harrow	80	79	82	77	84	80	82	78	85	79
Havering	80	78	80	78	81	78	85	81	84	80
Hillingdon	78	77	80	75	79	77	80	77	81	77
Hounslow	71	71	76	73	77	73	79	75	80	77
Kingston upon Thames	80	77	83	77	85	80	86	82	86	82
Merton	73	68	75	66	75	72	78	74	81	75
Redbridge	78	75	78	74	79	77	83	79	82	78
Richmond upon Thames	84	83	87	82	87	83	88	85	89	85
Sutton	80	78	81	77	80	76	83	78	83	79
Waltham Forest	66	65	70	68	73	69	73	69	77	72

Percentage of pupils achieving level 5 or above in KS3 tests

	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	English	*Maths*	*English*	*Maths*	*English*	*Maths*	*English*	*Maths*	*English*	*Maths*
London	64	63	66	67	70	70	74	71	73	75
Inner London	—	—	58	59	63	62	68	65	68	70
Camden	66	63	68	65	73	70	76	72	75	76
Hackney	45	48	59	52	59	56	60	58	64	65
Hammersmith and Fulham	60	59	62	67	64	67	73	73	77	77
Haringey	56	52	52	55	59	58	65	62	61	64
Islington	51	50	49	57	55	59	64	61	61	64
Kensington and Chelsea	72	69	79	72	80	76	81	76	87	84
Lambeth	59	55	61	62	69	66	71	65	72	71
Lewisham	58	54	60	60	64	64	66	65	70	70
Newham	56	53	55	60	63	62	67	66	64	68
Southwark	50	46	51	52	63	58	66	59	66	65
Tower Hamlets	51	49	54	55	57	58	67	61	65	68
Wandsworth	64	60	62	63	68	67	73	70	71	73
Westminster	62	61	69	65	68	68	76	69	69	74
Outer London	—	—	69	71	74	74	76	74	75	77
Barking and Dagenham	58	58	62	61	65	65	66	66	67	70
Barnet	72	72	73	76	78	78	82	80	81	82
Bexley	66	69	71	73	75	77	76	74	74	77
Brent	64	66	64	66	70	72	73	74	74	76
Bromley	76	72	73	76	80	77	80	79	80	82
Croydon	65	65	66	68	70	72	75	71	73	74
Ealing	60	61	68	69	73	72	75	72	73	76
Enfield	64	65	67	68	70	71	72	72	71	74
Greenwich	54	54	61	61	63	60	67	63	68	68
Harrow	75	73	71	75	76	77	82	79	80	81
Havering	74	76	72	76	81	79	80	81	79	81
Hillingdon	67	64	65	73	71	74	74	73	70	76

Percentage of pupils achieving level 5 or above in KS3 tests

	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	English	Maths	English	Maths	English	Maths	English	Maths	English	Maths
Hounslow	64	64	71	68	70	71	76	71	76	77
Kingston upon Thames	74	78	79	80	80	83	80	83	84	84
Merton	62	62	65	67	66	68	75	71	67	71
Redbridge	75	74	75	76	78	79	82	80	81	83
Richmond upon Thames	72	70	74	72	77	75	75	73	80	79
Sutton	81	78	75	79	83	82	84	82	86	87
Waltham Forest	60	57	60	62	68	66	74	67	70	71

Schools: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of funding for schools is largely unrelated to school numbers; and if he will make a statement. [150888]

Jim Knight: I refer the hon. Gentlemen to the answer given on 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 880W.

HOME DEPARTMENT

101 Calls

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on plans for the future of the 101 number. [158747]

Mr. McNulty: A decision on the 101 single non-emergency number will be made shortly.

Asylum: Aviation

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) which airlines the Government have used for the return of failed asylum seekers to their country of origin; [160765]

(2) which airlines have refused to carry failed asylum seekers from the UK to their country of origin. [160766]

Mr. Byrne: It is not the policy of the Border and Immigration Agency to disclose such information.

Drugs: Misuse

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect of reclassifying drugs on their production, supply and use. [159832]

Mr. Coaker: The Home Department undertakes and evaluates several surveys in order to monitor levels of illegal drug production, supply and use. These are not predicated on the ABC classification system but where they are drug specific, any changes are closely monitored following a drug's reclassification. Relevant published research is also routinely considered.

Foreign Workers

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 12 September 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2159-61W on foreign workers, if she will give a break down by nationality of *(a)* work permit holders with leave to enter for employment for 12 months or more and their dependants and *(b)* work permit holders with leave to enter for employment for less than 12 months and their dependants. [155991]

Mr. Byrne: Copies of the table containing the requested figures for 1995 to 2006 have been placed in the Library.

Information for earlier years can be found in the Command Papers entitled "Control of Immigration: Statistics, United Kingdom" for those years, also from the Library.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many trafficked women and children have been discovered since the launch of Operation Pentameter 2; and if she will make a statement. [160656]

Mr. Coaker: Figures on the number of trafficking victims recovered will be published at the end of Operation Pentameter 2.

We shall not be releasing any interim figures during the period of this operation whilst we carry out the process of identification of victims. To issue interim figures in these circumstances may be misleading.

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures were taken to ascertain whether the workers arrested in the Immigration Service raids on restaurant businesses in central London on 11 October 2007 were victims of trafficking and forced labour; what *(a)* counselling and *(b)* other assistance is available to any such workers who are identified as victims of trafficking and forced labour; and what measures are taken to ensure that any such workers are not placed in a situation where they might be vulnerable to recycling as forced labourers by the trafficking gangs. [160116]

Mr. Byrne: 49 migrant workers were arrested on 11 October in central London on suspicion of committing immigration offences. Current operational procedures

require all those arrested to be interviewed to establish their identity and their current immigration status. If there is a suspicion of illegal entry then further detailed questions may be asked in relation to their route and method of entry and if they were assisted.

All the individuals arrested were questioned by Border and Immigration Agency officials as to their route of entry to the UK, and given the opportunity to obtain legal representation.

Any evidence or intelligence that leads to facilitators or traffickers will be vigorously pursued. In particular the Border and Immigration Agency is examining the role of the employers in all this to identify whether further offences have been committed.

Land: Security

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what powers are available to the police and local authorities to compel landowners to take appropriate steps to secure land in order to prevent it from being used for antisocial and criminal purposes. [158611]

Mr. Coaker: I understand that police do not have such powers. Local authority powers are the responsibility of the Department of Communities and Local Government.

Metropolitan Police: Emergency Calls

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many calls were handled by the Metropolitan Police emergency call system in each month for which records are available; [155641]

(2) how long on average a caller to the Metropolitan Police emergency call system must wait before being answered. [155642]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis.

Metropolitan Police: Eyesight

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to provide access to appropriate *(a)* tests and *(b)* laser eye surgery for members of the Metropolitan Police Service in (i) firearms and (ii) other sections of the force. [158579]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis.

Official Hospitality

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the total cost was to public funds of the event held for the Immigration Minister in Essex on 16 October. [159975]

Mr. Byrne: On 16 October 2007, the Immigration Minister visited Stansted Airport to meet Border and Immigration Agency staff to discuss local operations and view the more visible Border controls at the port. The Minister then visited Burnt Mill Comprehensive School in Harlow where he spent an hour with some of the children from Years 9-11 to discuss immigration issues, hosted by the school's citizenship teacher. The Minister also made a speech at the school to local stakeholders on immigration policy. The costs to the Home Office were negligible, comprising travel and subsistence for officials travelling on the day from London.

Police

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the likely police deployment in 2008. [160817]

Mr. McNulty: The deployment of police officers is an operational matter for each chief constable.

Police Stations

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police stations there were in each police force area in each year since 1997; and how many *(a)* opened and *(b)* closed in each year. [158854]

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many police stations are in use in each parliamentary constituency; [159952]

(2) how many police stations were in use in each year since 1997. [159953]

Mr. McNulty: The management of the police estate and allocation of resources are matters for each police authority and the Chief Officer, who are responsible for assessing local needs.

Police: Brent

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what steps her Department has taken to recruit more police in Brent; and if she will make a statement; [157378]

(2) how many unfilled police vacancies there are in each London borough. [157379]

Mr. McNulty: This is a matter for the Commissioner of Police for the Metropolis.

Police: Bureaucracy

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average period of time was for a police officer to process an arrest in *(a)* 1983, *(b)* 1992, *(c)* January 1997, *(d)* 1998, *(e)* each year since 2003 and *(f)* the most recent date for which information is available. [159610]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not collected centrally.

Police: Finance

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of police funding for each police authority in England and Wales was spent at *(a)* central and *(b)* divisional level in each of the last 10 years, listed in descending order according to level of central spending. [160519]

Mr. McNulty: The allocation of resources within each force is a matter for the chief officer and the police authority.

Police: Firearms

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times police armed response units were deployed in the northern division of Cambridgeshire Constabulary in each year since 1997; and how many and what percentage of these incidents resulted in a police officer discharging their weapon. [160215]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available centrally in the form requested. The number of operations involving armed response vehicles (ARVs) in the Cambridgeshire Constabulary is shown in the following table. We do not collect statistics by force division. The overall number of incidents where a conventional firearm was used in England and Wales, is also shown.

Number of operations involving armed response vehicles (ARVs)—Cambridge Constabulary

	Number
1996-97	23
1997-98	19
1998-99	27
1999-2000	54
2000-01	36
2001-02	43
2002-03	45
2003-04	155
2004-05	172
2005-06	160

Number of incidents where conventional firearms were used by police, England and Wales

	Incidents	*Percentage of incidents compared with number of authorised operations*
1996-97	5	0.040
1997-98	3	0.025
1998-99	5	0.046
1999-2000	7	0.064
2000-01	9	0.081
2001-02	11	0.079
2002-03	10	0.067
2003-04	4	0.024
2004-05	5	0.031
2005-06	9	0.048

Police: Informers

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent by each police force on police informants in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [160085]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 October 2007]:* Spending on informants is an operational matter for each chief officer and police authority in the light of their budget provisions.

Protest: Animal Experiments

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the impact on levels of investment in research and development of the activity of animal rights extremists in England and Wales in the past 10 years; and if she will make a statement. [159674]

Mr. Coaker: Although exact figures are not available, the statistics that are collected for pharmaceutical research and development in the UK started to decline from 2002 when the ARE activity was at its height.

The Government takes seriously the illegal activities of animal rights extremists aimed at discouraging investment in the UK. We have in place a robust interdepartmental strategy to eradicate the threat. The strategy is centred on an improved law enforcement approach, with additional resources provided to the police to tackle animal rights extremism, a central team set-up to drive forward police action nationally, and legislation enacted to protect animal research organisations. The strategy has led to a significant fall in illegal extremist activity.

Protest: Cenotaph

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to amend the law so as to allow protests against war in the vicinity of the Cenotaph. [159835]

Mr. McNulty: Protests in the vicinity of the Cenotaph are already allowed. As the Cenotaph falls within the designated area around Parliament, organisers of static demonstrations are required to notify their intention to demonstrate to the Commissioner in advance. The Commissioner must authorise any demonstration which is notified to him in advance. Marches are subject to prior notification under section 11 of the Public Order Act 1986.

We announced in the Green Paper "The Governance of Britain" in July that we would review the provisions that govern the right to protest in the vicinity of Parliament. We shall be consulting widely with a view to ensuring that people's right to protest is not subject to unnecessary restrictions. The consultation will begin very shortly.

Scouts and Guides

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many scouts from overseas due to attend the World Scouting Jamboree in August 2007 in Hylands Park, Chelmsford, *(a)* disappeared during the course of the Jamboree and *(b)* failed to turn up to the Jamboree after having entered the UK; [156166]

(2) how many scouts from overseas who were due to attend the World Scouting Jamboree in August in Hylands Park, Chelmsford, applied for political asylum since 28 July. [156167]

(3) what action has been taken by *(a)* the Border and Immigration Agency and *(b)* the police to track down those overseas scouts who entered the UK to attend the World Scouting Jamboree in August in

Hylands Park, Chelmsford, and failed to turn up to the Jamboree or disappeared during the course of the Jamboree. [156168]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 8 October 2007]*: A number of overseas scouts attending the World Scouting Jamboree would have made an application for entry clearance to enter the United Kingdom. They would have been issued with visitor visas for the standard six month period.

The information requested regarding how many scouts from overseas disappeared or did not arrive at the World Scouting Jamboree event is not collected by the Border and Immigration Agency because no Immigration offences were committed.

The Border and Immigration Agency cannot confirm how many overseas scouts claimed asylum as we do not comment on individual cases.

Essex police have confirmed that a total of 11 scouts are missing and they are actively trying to locate them. All referrals from the police to The Border and Immigration Agency relating to the overseas missing scouts have been investigated and all individuals continue to have valid entry clearance and are in the United Kingdom legally. As such, this is an ongoing police matter.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departments: Publicity

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his Department's projected spending is on advertising and promotional campaigns for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09, broken down by cost relating to (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media. [155881]

Mr. Lammy: The Department is planning an advertising and promotional campaign for student support in 2007-08. The advertising and publicity budget allocated to this programme is £4.5 million of which £1,777,776 will be spent on advertising and promotion. The costs following have been broken down as requested.

	Projected spend (£)
Television	1,145,813
Radio	374,173
Print	257,790

It is not possible to provide figures for 2008-09. Budgets will not be agreed until communications priorities and objectives for 2008-09 have been finalised and planning (informed by evaluation of 2007-08 activity) has been completed.

Graduates: Higher Education

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) if he will commission an assessment of the benefits to *(a)* individual students, *(b)* businesses and *(c)* the economy of graduates completing second degrees; and if he will make a statement; [150819]

(2) what advice is provided to graduates on the *(a)* merits and *(b)* mechanics of pursuing a second degree; and whether guidance is available on the choice of subject. [150844]

Bill Rammell: We have asked HEFCE to phase out the support it gives to institutions for students doing a second degree at an equivalent or lower level in order to redistribute around £100 million a year by 2010/11 towards our priorities. While there may be some benefit to individuals, and their employers, in them retraining for a second qualification at the same level, it is generally fairer to both students and the taxpayer to give priority to those either entering higher education for the first time, or progressing to higher qualifications. All of the £100 million will be redistributed to support our priorities, including the challenges posed by Sandy Leitch around the proportion of the work force with graduate level skills from under 30 per cent. to over 40 per cent. by 2020. At the same time, we also published details of these changes and the rationale for them so that prospective students both with and without existing Higher Education qualifications can plan ahead in the knowledge of our priorities.

Laboratories: Security

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which pathogens acting on *(a)* human and *(b)* animals are considered to be viable terrorist bioweapons; and what (i) guidance and (ii) security conditions are given to sites storing or studying such cultures. [158993]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

There is a wide range of pathogens which could be considered as potential bioweapons. Guidance on hazardous pathogens and toxins, including security considerations is included within the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act (2001). Pathogens (or derivatives) are covered under schedule 5, Order 2007 while security considerations are covered in part 7 of the Act.

Students: Loans

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many loanees are making repayments to the Student Loans Company. [156067]

Bill Rammell: In March 2007 there were 253,200 English domiciled income-contingent borrowers repaying their loans. There were 154,300 mortgage-style borrowers ahead or up to date with repayments. In addition a number of mortgage-style borrowers classed as in arrears may have made repayments that did not bring their accounts up to date.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many cases of delays in repayment of loans by graduates who have reached the earning threshold for repayment there have been in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [156587]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is not held centrally.

Disease Control: Research

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when Government research facilities handling animal pathogens for which his Department is responsible have had their drainage systems *(a)* inspected and *(b)* risk assessed since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [159533]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

The drainage systems of laboratories licensed by DEFRA to handle specified animal pathogens under the Specified Animal Pathogens Order (SAPO) 1998 are not routinely inspected, nor is this a condition of a SAPO licence.

However, following the recent outbreaks of foot and mouth disease (FMD), DEFRA and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have issued a safety alert to all SAPO Category 3 and 4 laboratories. The alert relates to issues arising from the independent reviews carried out by Professor Spratt and the HSE into potential breaches of biosecurity at the Pirbright site. It requires all such laboratories to satisfy themselves that their facilities and procedures address all the issues identified by Professor Spratt and the HSE. DEFRA and the HSE will also undertake a programme of inspection at all SAPO Category 3 and 4 laboratories. SAPO licences for those laboratories have also been amended to make clear their responsibilities towards biosecurity.

In addition, we have commissioned a review of the regulatory framework for animal pathogens under Sir Bill Callaghan. This review will include a consideration of the appropriate enforcement standards for animal pathogens, including issues such as drainage.

JUSTICE

Coroners

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his definition is of a working day in connection with a coroner's responsibility to contact next of kin with reference to his Department's latest draft charter for the bereaved. [160488]

Bridget Prentice: The definition of a working day in the draft Charter is any day between Monday and Friday inclusive, with the exception of Christmas Day, Good Friday or a bank holiday in England and Wales under the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971. I intend to publish the draft Charter at the same time as the Coroners Bill is introduced. This will enable Members to see a summary of how the measures in the Bill will benefit bereaved families. There will be further opportunities for consultation on the draft Charter in the future, following Royal Assent of the Bill, and before reform is fully implemented.

Courts: Pay

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the savings to his Department consequent upon the introduction of regional pay for court staff. [160119]

Maria Eagle: There are no direct cash savings to the Department arising from the introduction of the new pay system. Rather this system enables the Department to make best use of the available budget.

Departments: Manpower

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by his Department are above state retirement age. [158953]

Bridget Prentice: The figures for the Ministry of Justice (former DCA and its' agencies) have been compiled and are detailed as follows.

(a) (i) The total number of permanent and casual staff, and the percentage of staff above state retirement age, employed by the Ministry of Justice (former DCA) as at 30 September 2006, taken from the Ministry of Justice new oracle single human resource system are as follows:

Ministry of Justice

Formerly Department for Constitutional Affairs (excl. agencies)	*Number/percentage*
Total all staff (permanent and casual)	2,190
Number of staff above 65 (state retirement age)	5
Percentage of staff above age 65 and above	0.23

(b) (i) The total number of permanent and casual staff, and the percentage of staff above state retirement age, employed by the Ministry of Justice agencies (former DCA and it's agencies) as at 30 September 2006, taken from the Ministry of Justice new oracle single human resource system are as follows:

Ministry of Justice's agencies	*Total all staff (permanent and casual)*	*Number of staff above 65 (state retirement age)*	*Percentage of staff above 65*
HM Courts Service	22,570	211	0.93
Public Guardianship Office	350	2	0.57
Tribunals Service	3,070	10	0.33
Scotland Office (excl. Office of Advocate General)	30	0	0
Wales Office	60	1	1.7

(b) (ii) The ONS does not collate the information for NDPB's centrally. Therefore, my Department would need to approach each of the individual NDPB's and amalgamate responses at a disproportionate cost.

Departments: Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with which companies contracts have been agreed on citizens' juries; and what value of payments has been agreed with each company. [160254]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has not contracted any companies to undertake citizens' juries. I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 23 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 283W.

Legal Aid

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1994W, on Legal Aid, if his Department will assess whether Arani and Co. solicitors should be allowed to remain on the list of legal aid firms. [160121]

Maria Eagle: The Legal Services Commission is responsible for awarding General Criminal Contracts, and for enforcing compliance with the standards required of contract holders. Any provider with a criminal legal aid contract, including Arani and Co., is subject to a series of reviews. The reviews test whether claims for legal aid have been made in accordance with the rules; whether the provider's performance meets the requirements of the General Criminal Contract and specialist quality mark; and whether an independent peer review assesses the provider of sufficient quality to deliver an acceptable standard of legal advice and assistance.

Any decision to terminate a criminal legal aid contract is a matter for the Legal Services Commission, should any of the reviews demonstrate that such action is necessary.

Police Custody

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much has been spent on reserving unused police cells under Operation Safeguard since October 2006. [160139]

Mr. Hanson: The Department has not separated the costs of used and unused police cells under Operation Safeguard. Places identified for use on the basis of potential operational need are paid for whether they are used or not.

The number of places used and the location of those places can vary on a day to day basis due to police and prison operational requirements.

Prisoners' Release

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what action is taken against prisoners who remain unlawfully at large until their scheduled release date after release on the End of Custody Licence Scheme; [160137]

(2) how many prisoners recalled to prison after release on the End of Custody Licence Scheme remained unlawfully at large until their scheduled release date. [160138]

Mr. Hanson: Offenders who breach any condition of the End of Custody Licence (ECL) are liable to be recalled, and a revocation order revoking their licence will be issued. From the revocation issue date, until they are arrested and returned to custody, the offender remains unlawfully at large (UAL). This period of absence is not treated as part of the sentence served unless the Secretary of State directs that it should be. Therefore, when the prisoner is returned to custody, the sentence must continue to be served including any custodial days outstanding.

All offenders whose End of Custody Licence is revoked are notified to the police local to the area to which the offender has been released. The police are committed to arresting and returning offenders to custody as quickly as possible.

Data on ECL, including prisoners recalled, are published at the end of each month on the Ministry of Justice website. The August report, published on 28 September, states that of the 205 offenders notified to NOMS as recalled between 29 June and the end of August, 48 offenders had not been returned to custody by end of 21 September, and all of those have passed their scheduled release date.

Information on the number of recalled offenders who have returned to custody and those who have not, as notified to NOMS, is reported monthly on the Ministry of Justice publications website.

Prisoners Transfers

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department was invoiced for costs incurred relating to transferring prisoners between sites of secure accommodation in *(a)* each year since 2001 and *(b)* each month in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [160755]

Mr. Hanson: Details of expenditure on inter-prison transfer and court escort services, including the daytime staffing of court facilities and docks in courts by escort contractors for each year since 2001 are set out in the following table:

	£ million
2001-02	105.1
2002-03	111.1
2003-04	116.1
2004-05	126.5
2005-06	140.7
2006-07	150.5

Details of expenditure for the financial year 2007-08 on a monthly basis are as follows:

	£ million
April	5.4
May	4.8
June	24.9

	£ million
July	13.3
August	16.8
September	12.7

Some of these payments do not necessarily relate to the months the actual costs were incurred.

Neither set of figures include costs of locally managed prisoner transfers. These are not recorded centrally.

Prisoners: Voting Rights

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to publish his Department's response to the consultation on voting rights for convicted prisoners. [160562]

Bridget Prentice: The Government are currently considering how to take forward the implementation of the "Hirst" judgment in light of the first stage of consultation on this issue.

Prisons: Film

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on cinema systems in *(a)* prisons and *(b)* young offender institutions in each of the last three years. [160461]

Mr. Hanson: Her Majesty's Prison Service does not collect information to this degree of detail on its central accounting system. This information could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance has been issued to prison governors and officers on the showing of 18 certificate films in prisons and young offenders institutions. [160565]

Mr. Hanson: No specific guidance has been issued. Prison governors are expected to comply with the certification requirements and will exercise their professional judgement over the suitability of films to be shown to prisoners.

Prisons: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases of *(a)* influenza, *(b)* Legionnaires' disease, *(c)* MRSA, *(d)* dysentery, *(e)* tuberculosis and *(f)* *Clostridium difficile* there were within prisons in England and Wales in each year since 2000. [160561]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not held centrally.

The Prison Service's Performance Standard, Health Services for Prisoners (May 2004), requires every prison establishment to have in place effective arrangements for the prevention, control and management of communicable diseases. These must include arrangements for the notification of all incidents of notifiable disease, such as tuberculosis, to the local Health Protection Agency's Consultant in Communicable Disease Control (CCDC) and an action plan in the event of an outbreak of a communicable disease.

Upon the detection of any infection in a prison establishment, appropriate health care and infection control procedures should be instituted in partnership with infection control teams in primary care trusts and health protection units.

Prisons: Telephones

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on *(a)* purchasing, *(b)* renting and *(c)* installing telephone systems for inmates in prisons in England and Wales in each of the last three years. [160469]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not held and would require detailed consultations with the provider of the public prisoner telephone network at a disproportionate cost. Additionally detailed information on the precise commercial terms of purchasing, rental and installation of telephones by private sector prisons may not be available for commercial-in-confidence reasons.

Prisons: Visits

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisons in England and Wales participate in child-friendly visit schemes. [160747]

Mr. Hanson: A new Prison Service Order was recently issued to prisons which emphasises the need to make social visits as child friendly as possible, although there is currently no performance standard that requires prisons to operate specific child or family day schemes. As a result, we do not collect information about how many have been run. However, while practice and provision varies across the prison estate, a growing number of establishments are running schemes to ensure meaningful contact between prisoners and their children.

Reoffenders

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many crimes are known to have been committed by offenders while on licence from prison in *(a)* 2002 and *(b)* 2006. [160560]

Mr. Hanson: We have data on the proven re-offending of offenders who were released on licence, but some of the re-offending of these offenders may have been committed after their licence period ended.

The available information on number of offences committed over three months by those offenders who were on licence when the snapshot of the probation caseload was taken is given in the following table. Information relating to 2002 is not available and could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

Proven re-offending of those released on licence who were recorded as being on the probation caseload (England and Wales) at the end of March, June, September, December 200

Date of data extract	*Total number of offenders on post-release supervision on probation caseload*[1]	*Period of re-offence*	*Number of re-offences*[2]	*Number of re-offenders*
End March 2006	23,573	April to June 2006	4,332	2,086

Proven re-offending of those released on licence who were recorded as being on the probation caseload (England and Wales) at the end of March, June, September, December 200

Date of data extract	Total number of offenders on post-release supervision on probation caseload[1]	Period of re-offence	Number of re-offences[2]	Number of re-offenders
End June 2006	23,519	July to September 2006	4,260	1,984
End September 2006	23,414	October to December 2006	3,861	1,914
End December 2006	24,066	January to March 2007	3,962	1,967

[1] Based on data matched with the PNC

[2] A re-offence is defined as an offence leading to a caution or conviction which took place in the three months following the end of that quarter and was proven within six months of the end of that quarter. For example, for March 2006, re-offences which took place in April, May or June 2006 will be included as long as they were proven by the end September 2006.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the re-offending rate was for prisoners who had served custodial sentences in the latest period for which figures are available; and what plans are in place to reduce it. [160643]

Mr. Hanson: The latest available data for adult offenders discharged from custody in the first quarter of 2004 show a 64.7 per cent. re-offending rate. The latest available data for juvenile offenders discharged from custody in the first quarter of 2005 show a 76.2 per cent. rate of re-offending.

The adult results show a 4.6 per cent. reduction in re-offending since 2000 and the juvenile results show a 2.8 per cent. reduction since 2000. Reductions in re-offending are measured by comparing the actual rate of proven re-offending to a predicted rate (which controls for changes in offenders characteristics) which is based on the results of the 2000 dataset.

The following tables set out adult and juvenile results since 2000.

Adult

	Actual re-offending rate	Predicted re-offending rate	Percentage change in re-offending: Increase	Percentage change in re-offending: Reduction
2000	64.8	—	—	—
2002	67.5	67.2	0.4	—
2003	65.9	67.4	—	2.2
2004	64.7	67.8	—	4.6

Juvenile

	Actual re-offending rate	Predicted re-offending rate	Percentage change in re-offending (reduction)
2000	78	—	—
2004	78.2	[1]—	—
2005	76.2	78.4	2.8

[1] Unavailable.

A great deal of work is being taken forward across Government to build on this success. Reducing re-offending is a key element of the new Home Office Crime Strategy "Cutting Crime: A New Partnership 2008-11". The new "Make Communities Safer" Public Service Agreement sets a target both to reduce adult and youth re-offending, and to reduce the level of serious re-offences. NOMS and DIUS will be producing an overarching Strategic Plan in spring 2008 to set out how the Government intend to meet this challenge and a consultation paper will be published shortly. Alongside this consultation, we will also be consulting on an Offender Health and Social Care Strategy and a NOMS Third Sector Action Plan. While these will focus on specific elements of work to reduce re-offending, they will support the overarching Strategic Plan, and underscore the Government's commitment to tackling re-offending holistically.

The Youth Justice Board (YJB) is working to reduce youth re-offending. The YJB has a scaled approach to youth justice interventions to ensure that youth offending services focus on those children and young people most likely to re-offend. The YJB has developed the assessment tool "Asset" which is used by all Youth Offending Teams (YOTs) to identify the risk factors driving offending behaviour and the protective factors that will support desistance. Asset is used to design a "multi modal" package of interventions to reduce risk factors and build up the protective factors. The Wiring-Up Youth Justice Programme is providing YOTs with the latest technology to improve the speed and quality of information transfer between YOTs, secure establishments and other key service providers.

The new local government performance framework which contains six specific youth justice indicators (out of total of 197) provides YOTs with an excellent lever to encourage local authority chief executives to prioritise young offenders' access to services.

The reducing re-offending agenda also makes important contributions to a number of other cross-Government PSAs including, PSA 16: Increase the proportion of socially excluded adults in settled accommodation, employment, education or training; PSA 25: Reduce the harm caused by Drugs and Alcohol and PSA 24: Deliver a more effective transparent and responsive Criminal Justice System for victims and the public.

We are introducing new ways of measuring progress on reducing re-offending, which will include reducing the reporting time lag in the adult results from two years to one year and producing a metric to provide a more detailed understanding of the volume and seriousness of re-offences.

Reoffenders: Eastern Region

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many high risk offenders committed further serious crimes in *(a)* East of England and *(b)* Suffolk while under the supervision of the probation and police service in each of the last three years. [161183]

Mr. Hanson: The number of offenders who were charged with a serious further offence while under the supervision of the probation and police services and managed at levels 2 and 3 of the Multi-Agency Public

Protection Arrangements (MAPPA) in each of the last three years in *(a)* East of England and *(b)* Suffolk is set out in the following tables.

Offenders supervised at MAPPA levels 2 and 3 charged with a serious further offence, East of England

	Number
2004-05	8
2005-06	2
2006-07	4

Offenders supervised at MAPPA levels 2 and 3 charged with a serious further offence, Suffolk

	Number
2004-05	1
2005-06	0
2006-07	0

Sentencing

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will review the effectiveness of his sentencing policy. [160283]

Mr. Hanson: The Government monitor closely the effectiveness of sentencing in reducing reoffending. A major review currently being conducted by Lord Carter is looking at sentencing policy as part of the wider examination of prison and probation services In England and Wales.

TRANSPORT

A303: Stonehenge

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she plans to announce her decision on the A303(T) improvement scheme. [161076]

Mr. Tom Harris: We are considering the findings of the inter-departmental review of the Stonehenge improvement scheme and alternative options together with the results of more recent traffic surveys and analysis carried out by the Highways Agency. We expect to announce our decision on the A303(T) improvement scheme later in 2007.

A38: Devon

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress her Department has made in ensuring that the alterations to the Deep Lane junction on the A38 in Devon will be carried out simultaneously with the development of a new town at Sherford. [160830]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency is currently negotiating with developers and local authorities to identify the most appropriate improvements for the Deep Lane junction, in order to accommodate the new community at Sherford along with other nearby developments. The Highways Agency has exercised its powers under Article 14 of the Town and Country Planning Act to instruct the local planning authority not to grant planning consent to the development until the applicant has provided additional information enabling the Highways Agency to assess fully the impact of the proposals on the A38 trunk road. The Highways Agency will continue working with all the relevant parties to ensure the improvement works are implemented in time to accommodate traffic generated by the new developments. The improvements have been identified as a priority for funding within the current regional funding allocation period.

Air Pollution: Standards

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures her Department is putting in place to achieve compliance with the European Union targets for reductions in nitrogen dioxide pollution by 2010; and if she will make a statement. [160388]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport (DFT) plays a key role in negotiating ever-tighter air quality standards for vehicles at EU level. The European Council recently voted for the latest set of Euro standards (Euro 5 and 6 for light duty vehicles), negotiated by DFT. Euro 6, due to come into force in 2015, will deliver a 68 per cent. reduction in nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions from diesel cars and vans, in comparison to the Euro 4 levels.

DFT requires local authorities to produce local transport plans (LTPs). Local authorities submitted their five-year LTPs in 2006, which cover all of England outside of London. In its guidance, DFT emphasised the importance of air quality by making it one of four shared priorities in the LTP.

The UK's new Air Quality Strategy, published in July 2007, recommended that the Government further consider three new transport measures: incentives for the early uptake of new Euro standards; increased uptake of low emission vehicles; and reduced emissions from ships. Discussions have already begun across Government as to the possible implementation of these measures.

Aircraft: Air Conditioning

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment has she made of the health implications for aircraft passengers and crew of air quality in commercial aircraft; and if she will make a statement. [161279]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We commissioned the independent Committee on Toxicity (COT) to evaluate evidence submitted by the British Air Lines Pilots Association (BALPA) in relation to cabin air "fume events". The COT received extensive information from oil companies, airlines, engine manufacturers, independent scientific experts and campaign groups. The COT also reviewed previous studies of cabin air. The COT reported on 20 September 2007. The report is published on COT's website at www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/cotnonfood/index.htm where there is a mass of material.

The committee considered that it was not possible to conclude whether cabin air exposures (either general or following incidents) cause ill-health in commercial aircraft

crews. It recommended further work, in particular and as a priority, to ascertain whether substances in the cabin environment during fume events could potentially be harmful to health. COT considered that this work should be designed to detect any potentially harmful substances, rather than focus on named substances.

In keeping with its commitment to promoting healthy flying, the Department for Transport accepts this priority. We have recently been testing equipment which may be capable of capturing substances released during fume incidents. Subject to the results of this testing, the Department hopes to begin a study later this year or early next year.

Bus Services: Tickets

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she has taken to ensure that smartcard-based passes are issued and all buses have smartcard readers before the start of the English concessionary bus fares scheme. [159815]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 22 October 2007]*: We have been providing regular guidance and support to Travel Concession Authorities (TCAs) to help them issue ITSO compliant smartcard passes. This includes issuing detailed bulletins and holding a series of regional seminars.

We have put in place a network of mentor authorities to provide additional advice and guidance to TCAs and have a dedicated and experienced team within the Department to provide support to TCAs and to monitor their progress.

We have put in place a framework agreement which TCAs can use to produce their smartcards, though they are free to other ITSO compliant smartcard producers if they wish. We have also put in place a number of other framework agreements offering related services, such as smartcard database management and the provision of equipment to allow TCAs to produce passes in house.

We are paying TCAs a grant of around £30 million this year which covers the cost of ordering passes under the framework agreement.

We are funding a new company, ITSO Services Ltd, to remove from TCAs most, if not all, of the financial and administrative burdens associated with becoming an ITSO member.

We have no plans to require smart readers to be installed on all buses in England. In areas where there are no smart readers, the passes will simply be shown to the bus drivers as they are now.

Departments: ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistant devices bought for the use of departmental Ministers have been returned to the Department following each Cabinet reshuffle since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [156731]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Since May 2005, eight mobile phones and seven laptops issued to departmental Ministers for official use have been returned following reshuffles. Detailed information for previous years can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Driving Tests: Motorcycles

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many motorcycle tests were carried out at each of the test centres in Scotland in each of the last 10 years. [160664]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Driving: Licensing

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people held full UK driving licences in *(a)* Sandwell metropolitan borough council, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* the UK in each year since 1997. [160120]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table shows the estimated number of people holding a full driving licence in *(a)* the West Midlands government office region and *(b)* Great Britain based on data from the National Travel Survey. It is not possible to produce estimates for Sandwell metropolitan borough council using data from this survey.

Full car driving licence holders, West Midlands government office region and Great Britain, 1996-98 to 2006[1]

	Estimated licence holders (million)
West Midlands	
1996-98	2.7
1997-99	2.8
1998-2000	2.8
1999-2001	2.8
2002-03	2.9
2003-04	2.9
2004-05	2.9
2005-06	3.0
Great Britain	
1996-98	30.7
1997-99	31.1
1998-2000	31.6
1999-2001	31.7
2002	31.9
2003	32.1
2004	32.2
2005	33.3
2006	33.7

[1] Data for several years have been combined in some cases to increase the sample size.

London Gateway Port

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the impact of the London Gateway Port on twenty-foot equivalent unit (TEU) capacity demand at other English ports; and if she will make a statement. [160220]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A detailed assessment of the impact of London Gateway on other ports by region was included in the Container Port Transhipment Study, prepared by the Department's consultants MDS Transmodal and DTZ Pieda and published in May 2006.

Scenarios 2(b), 4(b) and 5(b) in this study considered the net effect of addition of London Gateway to other development scenarios. Depending on deep-sea development assumed elsewhere, the study estimated that it would reduce additional feeder-service quay length required elsewhere by 2030 by between 14 per cent. and 35 per cent. as well as abstracting deep-sea traffic from other ports.

London Gateway Port: Road Traffic

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the impact of the London Gateway Port on road congestion in Essex; and if she will make a statement. [160219]

Jim Fitzpatrick: An assessment of the impact of the London Gateway port on road congestion in Essex was made as part of the Government decision giving consent for the port. The then Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron), was satisfied that the impact of additional road traffic in Essex resulting from the port would be adequately addressed by the proposed highway capacity improvements set out in undertakings given by the London Gateway port promoters to Essex county council.

National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the date was of each meeting held by *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in her Department with the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers since 27 June. [159787]

Mr. Tom Harris: Ministers and officials have had a number of meetings with the National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers (on an individual basis or as part of a wider group) since 27 June to discuss a range of issues.

River Thames: Bridges

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which stakeholders have been included in the discussion on a new Lower Thames Crossing; and if she will make a statement. [160230]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The first part of the study will include extensive consultation with both public and private sector stakeholders. In addition the study will have access to the comments made on capacity issues included in the response to the consultation on "Changes to Charges at the Dartford Crossing" carried out earlier this year.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the impact of a new Lower Thames Crossing on *(a)* access to and *(b)* congestion in Castle Point. [160231]

Ms Rosie Winterton: No detailed work has been carried out on the access and congestion implications of any specific option.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on commissioning a Lower Thames Crossing; and whether any locations have been ruled out. [160232]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Detailed work on the specification of the study has been completed in house and the project is now out to tender with consultants. No locations have been ruled out.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many hit-and-run accidents there were in the Peterborough constituency in each of the last five years; and how many accidents resulted in *(a)* injury and *(b)* death. [160216]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is given in the table:

Number of reported personal injury hit-and-run road accidents and the number that resulted in injuries and deaths in Peterborough constituency, 2002-06

		Resulting in:	
Accident year	*Accidents*	*Injury*[1]	*Death*
2002	91	90	1
2003	98	98	0
2004	87	87	0
2005	88	88	0
2006	74	74	0

[1] Serious or slight.

Rolling Stock

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average age is of rolling stock providing *(a)* inter-city services, *(b)* commuter services in London and the South East and *(c)* local regional rail services. [159813]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 22 October 2007]*: The information is not held in the form requested. Information on the age of rolling stock by operator is as follows:

	Years
All operators	13.95
Long distance	16.40
London and SE	12.98
Regional operators	16.12

Shipping: Oil

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) when she plans to bring forward secondary legislation to control ship to ship oil transfer in UK territorial waters; and if she will make a statement; [160752]

(2) when her Department plans to hold the consultation on the secondary legislation that will regulate ship to ship transfers within UK territorial waters. [160753]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The regulations which will regulate ship-to-ship transfers within the 12 nautical mile limit of the UK's territorial sea are still in draft. The Department now expects to put the draft regulations out for public consultation in early 2008, with a view to their coming into force later in that year.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 62W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, what the monetary value is of all items stolen. [158352]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The total estimated monetary value of thefts reported of both military supplies and private effects in transit to UK forces in Afghanistan from April 2006 to February 2007 is estimated at approximately £400,000.

Armed Forces

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has received from Royal British Legion members on the military covenant. [160645]

Derek Twigg: The Secretary of State and I both received letters dated 12 September from Frances Done, then director general of the Royal British Legion, formally notifying the Ministry of Defence of the public launch of the 'Honour the Covenant' campaign on 13 September and setting out its principal concerns.

Since the launch of the campaign, Ministers have received in excess of 200 representations from members of the public concerning the Military Covenant. A majority of these have used the proforma generated by the Royal British Legion or state that they are writing on its behalf but we do not know the exact number of the correspondents who are members.

Armed Forces: Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Service Families Accommodation properties were upgraded to Standard One in each financial year since 1997. [153387]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* The number of Service Families Accommodation (SFA) properties upgraded to our highest 'Standard One for Condition' in each financial year since 1999 is:

	Number
1999-2000	2,393
2000-01	2,700
2001-02	3,870
2002-03	1,440
2003-04	1,402
2004-05	2,610
2005-06	1,705
2006-07	1,215

Records pre-dating 1999 are incompatible and inconsistent with those now held due to changes in data collection and standards measured.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of service families accommodation (SFA) and single living accommodation (SLA) in the UK will be at standard *(a)* 1 and *(b)* 2 after his Department's planned programme of expenditure over the next 10 years; and by what date he expects all SFA and SLA to be at standard (i) 1 and (ii) 2. [160026]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 22 October 2007]:* The total number of service families accommodation (SFA) which will be retained in 10 years' time is dependent on wider rationalisation and disposal decisions yet to be taken. Under the housing prime contract, a survey is underway on SFA which will inform future upgrade plans. It would be premature to predict at this stage how many properties will be at a particular standard in 2017. The upgrading of properties is, however, proceeding and at present some 95 per cent. of SFA is at the top two standards for condition. This includes increasing the condition of properties at the top Standard from 40 per cent in 2001-02 to 59 per cent. now.

So far as single living accommodation (SLA) is concerned, the current programme extends to 2013 and by then we anticipate that 52 per cent. (70,000 bed-spaces) will be at the highest standard (Grade 1), with a further 14 per cent. (19,000 bed-spaces) at Grade 2.

Armed Forces: Lifelong Education

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* level of uptake and *(b)* cost was of the (i) standard learning credits scheme and (ii) enhanced learning credits scheme for (A) officers and (B) other ranks in each year since 1997. [158382]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held in the format requested in that records are not readily available by rank for either scheme, financial data about the Standard Learning Credits (SLC) Scheme is only kept to hand for the past five full financial years, and the first payments under the Enhanced Learning Credits (ELC) Scheme were only available from 1 April 2004. The full data requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

SLC Scheme

The total service uptake and expenditure of the SLC Scheme for the last five years is provided in the following table:

Financial year	*Number of claims*	*Strength*	*Percentage take up*	*Total spent (£ million)*
2002-03	24,888	181,700	13.7	3.035
2003-04	29,748	182,700	16.3	3.504
2004-05	28,020	184,500	15.1	3.475
2005-06	28,452	182,800	15.6	3.336
2006-07	26,629	178,300	14.9	2.800

ELC Scheme

Prior to 1 April 2004 a total of 177,534 personnel registered for the ELC Scheme.

Personnel only become eligible to claim ELC after accruing a minimum of four years service post their initial registration on the scheme. It would be misleading to express take-up as a percentage of registered personnel for such a demand-led scheme where, once eligible, personnel can make up to a maximum of three claims, no more than one per annum, at any time during their career or for up to 10 years after leaving the Service. The table below shows the number of additional registrations, the number of claims authorised and the value of those claims in the three financial years the scheme has been operating:

Financial year	*Number of additional registrations*	*Number of claims authorised*	*Total spent (£ million)*
2004-05	19,893	4,632	3.630
2005-06	14,962	6,125	5.044
2006-07	14,882	6,570	5.645

Armed Forces: Racial Discrimination

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what action the Government have taken to eradicate racism within the armed forces. [159059]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 22 October 2007]:* The Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force have done a great deal in recent years to promote racial equality and continue to work hard to develop an organisational culture that welcomes racial diversity and places the highest priority on tackling racism. The armed forces respect and value every individual's unique contribution regardless of race, ethnic origin, religion, gender, social background or sexual orientation. The goal is to create a working environment free from harassment and unlawful discrimination, in which all have equal opportunity to realise their full potential. From 1997 to 2006, the armed forces worked in formal partnership with the Commission for Racial Equality to improve racial equality.

The MOD published a race equality scheme (RES) in 2003 and subsequent reports about the scheme detail the range of measures that the armed forces have undertaken to improve racial equality. The RES was superseded in June 2006 by the Department's overarching equality and diversity scheme. The armed forces achievements in promoting racial equality were recognised when all three services finished in the top 10 in Business in the Community's annual Race for Opportunity annual benchmarking report for 2006.

Armed Forces: Weapons

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what weapons and ammunition for which *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the armed forces have responsibility have gone missing in the last two years. [155734]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In answering this question the term 'weapons' is taken to be firearms and 'missing' is taken to include lost and stolen. Separate records are not maintained for other weapons and such information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The number of firearms lost or stolen in the period 1 January 2005 until 1 October 2007 is 64. The breakdown is as follows:

	Stolen	*Recovered*
Automatic weapon		
2005	1	0
2006	0	0
2007	0	0
Total	1	0
Heavy arms (mortar etc.)		
2005	0	0
2006	1	1
2007	0	0
Total	1	1
Other weapon		
2005	13	0
2006	1	1
2007	1	1
Total	15	2
Pistol		
2005	5	2
2006	8	2
2007	5	1
Total	18	5
Rifle (mil)		
2005	9	2
2006	12	0
2007	4	1
Total	25	3
Shotgun		
2005	0	0
2006	0	0
2007	2	0
Total	2	0
Rifle		
2005	0	0
2006	2	0
2007	0	0
Total	2	0
Grand total	64	11

Thefts of weapons are investigated by the Service Police, Ministry of Defence Police or the Home Department Police, either jointly or independently.

The MOD holds numerous types of ammunition. Although the loss and theft is recorded, the information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the total number of each type of armoured vehicle was cannibalised in each of the last 12 months. [157041]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Army: Operating Costs

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much it costs to run an infantry battalion (light role) for one year. [157966]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not held in the form requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Expenditure is spread over a variety of budgets and will vary according to the composition of the infantry battalion, the tasks in which it is engaged and where it is deployed.

Army: Working Hours

Mr. Peter Robinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many hours were worked per week on average by regular trained junior ranks in the Army in 2005-06; and whether time on annual leave was included in the calculations for the figures given on 16 June 2006, *Official Report*, column 1520W, on army personnel (working hours). [160249]

Derek Twigg: The Defence Analytical Service Agency (DASA) carry out a continuous sample survey of working patterns providing estimates of the average working hours per person, per week, for each service.

The results of the 2005-06 survey gave an estimate of an average of 45.2 "hours worked" per week for all regular trained junior ranks in the Army.

"Hours worked" includes time spent carrying out normal work, secondary duties, compulsory fitness training, organised sports and representational activities, but excludes annual leave, meal and tea breaks and time spent on call.

A copy of the 2005-06 Continuous Working Patterns report is available in the Library of the House.

Defence Estates: Official Hospitality

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much Defence Estate North has charged in liability charges for charity events held on his Department's property since April 2005. [158373]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Consultants

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will list the contracts his Department signed on a consultancy basis with a net value of more than £20,000 in 2006. [159316]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 18 October 2007]:* The information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, I have placed in the Library of the House, the MOD's expenditure on Management and Business Consultancy, Finance and Accountancy Consultancy, Corporate Governance and Audit Consultancy, and Public/Private Partnership and Private Finance Initiative Consultancy contracts signed in financial year 2006-07 that have passed through a centralised approval process. The figures do not contain spend by the MOD's Trading Funds or Agencies or on other types of consultancy.

Summaries of the MOD's expenditure on External Assistance have been placed in the Library of the House on an annual basis since 1995-96. Furthermore, information on organisations, including consultancy firms, paid £5 million or more by the Department in each financial year is published in the UK Defence Statistics. Copies are also available in the House Library.

Departments: Manpower

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by his Department are above state retirement age. [158936]

Derek Twigg: The number and percentage of employees in the Department and each Executive agency as at 1 September 2007 are shown in the following table.

All staff above retirement age (SRA)

	Number	*Percentage*
Ministry of Defence (Less Agencies)	1,390	2.5
Defence Analytical Services Agency	[1]—	2.2
Defence Medical and Education Training Agency	25	[1]—
Defence Storage and Distribution Agency	70	1.8
Defence Vetting Agency	10	2.6
Ministry of Defence Police	55	0.7
Pay and Personnel Agency	25	2.0
Service Children's Education	5	0.6
Service Personnel and Veterans Agency	45	4.0
Trading Fund Personnel	95	1.0
Ministry of Defence Total	1,730	2.1

[1] Less than 5.

Source:
DASA (Quad Service).

Data for non-departmental public bodies funded by the Department is not held centrally.

Meteorology: Manpower

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of how many meteorologists work in the UK. [157208]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 24 October 2007]:* At the current time, the Met Office has some 400 forecasting and observing staff working directly in weather forecast production in the UK. The Met Office

also has a small number of forecasters and observers working in overseas locations. In addition there are some 300 scientists working in meteorological research and development. There are also a number of staff working in management and support roles who have a meteorological background.

The Royal Navy currently has 136 HM (hydrographic, meteorological, oceanographic) officers and 13 warrant officers and chief petty officers who have received some form of training as meteorological forecasters. Only a proportion of these will be directly employed on forecasting duties at any one time. In addition to the trained forecasters, the RN has around 70 junior and senior rates trained as meteorological observers/forecasters' assistants, most of whom will be employed on forecasting duties at any one time.

In addition to those working at the Met Office and in the Royal Navy, the Royal Meteorological Society estimates there are approximately 550 meteorologists working in academia and industry throughout the UK.

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of meteorologists likely to be needed in the UK in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2020 and *(c)* 2030; and if he will make a statement. [157209]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 24 October 2007]*: On current plans the requirement for meteorologists both at the Met Office and in the Royal Navy is likely to remain broadly constant in the future although the requirement is kept under regular review.

I am unable to comment on the future requirement for meteorologists working outside of MOD.

Nuclear Weapons: Testing

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what categories of records of human exposure to radiation during *(a)* British nuclear warhead tests and *(b)* plutonium dispersal tests at Maralinga are held by the Health Protection Agency. [160506]

Derek Twigg: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) hold an epidemiological database which is used for the ongoing follow-up study of the UK participants in the UK Atmospheric nuclear weapons tests and experimental programmes at Maralinga, conducted between 1952 and 1964.

The HPA epidemiological database includes details of individuals recorded as having been issued with film badges as well as recorded details of any external doses that had been incurred above the threshold of detection.

In addition to the information on the database, HPA has carried out post mortem radiochemical analyses on tissues from four nuclear weapons tests participants, at the request of either a coroner or relatives of the individual. The results of these analyses have been passed to the relevant individuals and are not in the public domain and are not part of the epidemiological database.

Royal Irish Regiment

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many full-time Royal Irish home service corporals and section commanders were on short service type S engagement contracts on *(a)* 1 July 2000, *(b)* 1 July 2002 and *(c)* 1 July 2006. [160483]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is not readily available in the format requested. I will write to the right hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Service Children's Education: Standards

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what proportion of 11-year-olds in schools operated by Service Children's Education achieved level 4 in *(a)* English, *(b)* mathematics, *(c)* science, *(d)* reading, *(e)* writing, *(f)* reading and writing and *(g)* reading, writing and mathematics in each year since 1997. [156042]

Derek Twigg: The information for 2005 and 2006 is shown in the table:

SCE Key Stage 2 Student Performance—Level 4

	2005		2006	
Subject	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
English	700	83	611	82
Mathematics	634	75	598	79
Science	749	89	696	92
Reading	740	87	648	87
Writing	550	65	495	67
Reading and Writing	543	64	485	65
Reading, Writing and Mathematics	488	58	450	60

Academic results for 2007 await formal validation. They will be published in the Service Children's Education Annual Report and Accounts, copies of which will be placed in the Library of the House in due course.

I also refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 2 February 2006, *Official Report*, columns 708-709W, by the then Under Secretary of State for Defence, my hon. Friend the Member for gave answers for the years from 1997 to 2004.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 27 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 801W, on unidentified flying objects, for what reasons his Secretariat (Air Staff)/ Defence Secretariat were not sent a copy of the Unidentified Aerial Phenomena Report. [160948]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 27 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 801W.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what departmental budget items have been reclassified, under consolidated budgeting guidance, following Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 decisions; and what the *(a)* former and *(b)* new (i) classification and (ii) sum budgeted is in each case. [160408]

Mr. Woodward: None of the Northern Ireland Office's budgets, including its Agencies and NDPBs, have been reclassified following the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007.

Departments: Citizens' Juries

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many citizens' juries have been arranged by his Department since June 2007; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the estimated cost is of each exercise; [159494]

(2) how many citizens' juries were arranged for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies in each year since 1997; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the cost was of each. [160011]

Paul Goggins: To date the Northern Ireland Office has not consulted citizens' juries on departmental policies.

We do, however, provide an opportunity for stakeholders and the wider public to contribute to NIO policies and legislation including, where appropriate, focus groups and public meetings. Consultations are carried out in accordance with the Cabinet Office code of practice on written consultation and the consultation period will normally last for a minimum of 12 weeks. The Northern Ireland Office website www.nio.gov.uk provides a library of consultations and, where available, the summary of responses and associated revision to the policy or legislation.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on what dates his Department breached its *(a)* resource, *(b)* near-cash, *(c)* administration and *(d)* capital budgets since 2001; what the total value of each breach was; and what the reason was for each breach. [160319]

Mr. Woodward: Since 2001 the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) Department has not had any breaches of its *(a)* resource budget, *(b)* Near-cash budget, *(c)* administration budget and *(d)* capital budget.

However, in 2001-02 the Department did have an excess vote relating to the funding of the grant to the Northern Ireland Consolidated Fund, which is a stand-alone RfR (request for resources) within the Department's supply estimates. The excess against the RfR was £285.2 million which in turn lead to an excess of £148.7 million over the total voted net cash requirement for the Department.

The reason for the breach was due to a breakdown in communication between the Department of Finance and Personnel, the NIO and HM Treasury during the spring supplementary estimates of that year.

Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland

Mr. Donaldson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on what basis the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland claims lawful possession of a witness statement made to the Police Service of Northern Ireland by one of her employees; and if he will make a statement. [160482]

Paul Goggins: The Police Ombudsman has advised that any information received by her in the conduct of her duties and responsibilities is in compliance with powers conferred on her as Police Ombudsman.

PRIME MINISTER

Armed Forces

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister how many times he has met the *(a)* Chief of the Defence Staff, *(b)* First Sea Lord and Chief of the Naval Staff, *(c)* Chief of the General Staff and *(d)* Chief of the Air Staff in the last 12 months. [159923]

The Prime Minister: I have regular meetings and discussions with ministerial colleagues and others on a wide range of subjects.

Committee on Standards in Public Life

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 958W, on the Committee on Standards in Public Life, why he did not provide reasons why Sir Alistair Graham was not invited to serve a second term. [160976]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 16 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 958W.

Departmental Responsibilities: Offshore Industry

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 959W, on departmental responsibilities: offshore industry, for what reasons he decided to allocate responsibilities for offshore oil, gas and energy consents to the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform; and if he will make a statement. [160422]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 16 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 959W.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 959W, on departmental responsibilities: offshore industry, what representations he received on the allocation of responsibilities for offshore oil, gas and energy consents; and if he will make a statement. [160423]

The Prime Minister: Since 27 June, my office has received approximately 200 representations on energy-related matters. Given the volume of correspondence I receive—thousands of letters each week covering a broad spectrum of issues—my office records letters by subject rather than by the view expressed.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 10 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 680W, on Departments: ministerial policy advisers, whether his adviser on political press issues has a written job description. [160288]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 10 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 680W.

Departments: Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Prime Minister how many and what percentage of questions tabled to his Office for answer on a named day received a substantive reply on the day named in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [161340]

The Prime Minister: In the period from September 2006 to September 2007, 103 named day parliamentary questions were tabled to my office, all of which received a substantive answer on the day named.

EU Reform: Treaties

Mr. Cash: To ask the Prime Minister what the evidential basis was for his statement of 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 19-38, on the EU Inter-Governmental Conference-Lisbon, relating to the views of the hon. Member for Stone. [160815]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to statements by the organisation 'Conservatives Against a Federal Europe', signed up to by the hon. Member in his former role as a vice-president of that organisation.

General Elections: Petitions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister how many *(a)* hits and *(b)* signatures were received on the e-petition on holding a general election in 2007 on the Downing street website before 12 noon on 10 October 2007; and how many there have been since that time and date. [160277]

The Prime Minister: Information on the number of signatures is available on the e-petitions website: http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Prime Minister where and when he raised the concerns of Sir Mike Jackson on US policy in Iraq with his US counterpart; and if he will publish the minutes of the meeting. [160175]

The Prime Minister: I regularly have discussions on a wide range of issues with President Bush, including on Iraq.

Official Hospitality: Prime Minister's Office

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* cost was of each reception held in No. 10 Downing street since 1 August. [160050]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson) on 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1135W.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether each of his Department's special advisers have declared conflicts of interest. [160280]

James Purnell: My special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract for Special Advisers.

Departments: Standards

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of his Department's public service agreement targets *(a)* take and *(b)* do not take account of rural proofing. [159639]

James Purnell: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has one public service agreement (PSA) target: to deliver a successful Olympic games and Paralympic games with a sustainable legacy and get more children and young people taking part in high quality PE and sport.

The PSA will be measured through five indicators. Indicators 1-3 do not require rural proofing as they relate specifically to the construction and design of the Olympic Park and Olympic venues and regeneration of East London. DCMS will ensure that the impact on rural communities is considered in relation to indicator 4—the delivery of public participation in cultural, sporting and community activities related to the 2012 games across the UK. In relation to indicator 5—creation of a world-class system for physical education (PE) and sport—DCMS is monitoring jointly with DCSF participation in PE and sport in all maintained schools, including those in rural communities. We will use this data to assess the impact in both rural and urban areas.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Inside Justice Week

24. **Ann Coffey:** To ask the Solicitor-General what role the Law Officers' Departments are taking in Inside Justice Week. [160593]

The Solicitor-General: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave in the House today.

Street Prostitutes

25. **Dr. Iddon:** To ask the Solicitor-General what the policy is of the Crown Prosecution Service on the prosecution of street prostitutes. [160594]

The Solicitor-General: The CPS policy is to consider alternatives to prosecution in the courts to help prostitutes find a route out of prostitution. In many areas of the country, the CPS and the local police have developed strategies that focus on rehabilitation.

Fireworks

26. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions for criminal offences relating to fireworks have been pursued in *(a)* Northamptonshire and *(b)* England by the Crown Prosecution Service in the last 12 months. [160595]

The Solicitor-General: It is not possible to provide a definitive response to this question from the records held by the CPS.

Information on prosecutions for offences against the person and for criminal damage is held at aggregate level, and it is not possible to identify separately any cases falling into these categories in which the offence involved a firework.

Offences under the Fireworks Regulations 2004 are within the scope of the Penalty Notice for Disorder Scheme, and are not prosecuted by the CPS unless the penalty notice is challenged.

Attorney-General

27. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Solicitor-General what recent representations her Office has received on the future role of the Attorney-General; and if she will make a statement. [160596]

The Solicitor-General: We have received a number of representations in response to the consultation document on the role of the Attorney-General. The consultation period runs until 30 November. The Attorney-General and I will be holding a seminar on 8 November to discuss the issues raised by the consultation, to which all interested hon. Members of both Houses are invited.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Computer Software

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what estimate he has made of the *(a)* percentage of software by value procured using Open Source and *(b)* percentage of software projects procured using Open Source in each of the last five years for which information is available; [154773]

(2) what plans he has to promote the use of Open Source IT by Government bodies; and what targets exist for the use of Open Source; [154774]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of the potential of Open Source software to produce efficiency savings; [154775]

(4) what steps have been taken following his Department's publication of Open Source Software Use Within UK Government in 2004; and if he will make a statement; [154776]

(5) which of the seven next steps listed on page six of his Department's publication Open Source Software Use Within UK Government published in 2004, have been implemented; and if he will make a statement; [154777]

(6) what advice has been issued by the Office of Government Commerce to departments on the use of Open Source information technology. [154778]

Gillian Merron: Government seeks the most cost-effective IT solutions. It tries to avoid mandating particular technologies so that suppliers can manage technology risks.

Although Open Source can be cheaper to purchase it can also entail higher support and other costs. The additional costs or savings depend on the individual business requirement. This is supported by external studies which have not shown a consistent advantage to open source in these terms.

The Government's policy on Open Source is to consider such solutions alongside proprietary ones in IT procurements and award contracts on a value for money basis; only use products for interoperability that support open standards and specifications in all future IT developments; seek to avoid lock-in to proprietary IT products and services; and consider obtaining full rights to bespoke software code or customisations of commercial off the shelf software it procures wherever this achieves best value for money.

The Government have no targets to promote the use of Open Source except where it is the most cost-effective way of meeting its needs. Information on the total use and value of Open Source in government is not held centrally and could not be obtained except at disproportionate cost. However it does play an important role in major applications including websites such as Directgov; Electronic Vehicle Licensing; and Jobcentre Plus's system to help people to obtain jobs.

Since 2004 we have continued to explore the use of Open Source to reduce total costs and improve the quality of business solutions. The security issues have been examined: some open source products have already passed information assurance certification. We have published the results of open source trials and can be found at:

http://www.ogc.gov.uk/documents/CP0041OpenSourceSoftwareTrialReport.pdf.

DTI and Research Councils have continued to work on Open Source issues in government-funded research (although no central records are held on individual projects).

I would also refer the hon. Member to the speech given by my right hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary in Westminster Hall, *Official Report*, columns 48-52WH.

Departmental Co-ordination

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library copies of any guidance issued to Departments on working with the Strategy Unit in the last 12 months. [159801]

Edward Miliband: The Cabinet Office does not issue formal guidance to Departments on working with individual units. The Strategy Unit has long established close and joint working relationships with other Government Departments. Detailed working arrangements are decided on a case-by-case basis. Further information about the role and working methods of the Strategy Unit are available on the Cabinet Office website (www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/strategy/).

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what departmental budget items have been reclassified, under Consolidated Budgeting Guidance, following comprehensive spending review 2007 decisions; and what the *(a)* former and *(b)* new (i) classification and (ii) sum budgeted is in each case. [160418]

Gillian Merron: There have been no budget items within the Cabinet Office that have been reclassified, under Consolidated Budgeting Guidance, following comprehensive spending review 2007 decisions.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which private consultancy firms *(a)* his Department and *(b)* agencies which report to his Department engaged in each of the last three years; which programmes or projects each firm worked on; and what the approximate cost to the Department or agency concerned was of each engagement. [155878]

Edward Miliband: The information requested for the Cabinet Office is not readily available and may not be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

Departments: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what efficiency savings his Department was required to make as part of its spending review 2004 (SR04) targets; what efficiency projects have been undertaken in the Department in pursuit of those targets; on what date each was initiated; and how much each was predicted to contribute to the SR04 target. [160557]

Gillian Merron: Details of the Cabinet Office's efficiency programme in relation to SR 2004 were reported in full in Cabinet Office Departmental Report 2007 (ref Cm 7108) which is available in the Libraries of the House.

The report is available from the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/about_the_cabinet_office/reports.asp

Departments: Internet

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* unique visits there have been to the Have Your Say on the Government's Draft Legislative Programme section of the Cabinet Office website and *(b)* unique visitors there have been to the Draft Legislative Programme section of the hmg.gov.uk website since 11 July 2007. [160291]

Gillian Merron: The Cabinet Office "Have your say" governance topic (http://haveyoursay.cabinet office.gov.uk/co/topic.aspx?topic=governance) received 1,348 unique visitors from its launch on 11 July 2007 to 21 October 2007.

The Draft Legislative Programme section of the HMG website (http://www.hmg.gov.uk/draftlegislativeprogramme/index.asp) received 2,476 unique visitors from its launch on 4 September 2007 to 21 October 2007.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average fully loaded cost was of a full-time equivalent member of staff of his Department in each of the last three years. [160609]

Gillian Merron: Details of the average fully loaded cost of a full-time equivalent member of staff in the Cabinet Office are not held centrally and are therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 530W, on Departments: Press, how orders for newspapers and periodicals subscribed to by the *(a)* Cabinet Office and *(b)* Prime Minister's offices are (i) authorised and (ii) placed. [160290]

Gillian Merron: The Prime Minister's office is an integral part of the Cabinet Office and therefore the answer provided is for the whole of the Cabinet Office including the Prime Minister's office.

Orders for newspapers and periodicals subscribed to by the Cabinet Office are authorised only by those members of senior management who have received the appropriate level of financial delegated authority. This is in accordance with Cabinet Office rules on procurement.

Orders for newspapers and periodicals can be placed: either through the HM Treasury and Cabinet Office library, via direct subscription to the publisher, or purchased on an ad hoc basis from a suitable supplier.

Departments: Retirement

Andrew Selous: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by his Department applied to continue to work beyond state retirement age in the latest year or part thereof for which figures are available; and how many of those applications were successful. [161299]

Gillian Merron: The Cabinet Office does not keep central records on the number of staff that have applied to work beyond the statutory retirement age of 65.

The Cabinet Office currently has six employees who are above the statutory retirement age of 65.

The Cabinet Office does not have responsibility for or fund any executive agencies or non-departmental public bodies.

Departments: Secondment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which Departments have Strategy Unit staff seconded to them; and to which teams within each Department such staff are seconded. [159784]

Edward Miliband: The Strategy Unit currently has staff seconded to the Department for Children Schools and Families (Strategy Unit and Youth Taskforce), Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (Office of Climate Change), Department of Health (Social Care), HM Treasury (Environment, Food and Rural Affairs team) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Strategy team).

Departments: Training

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much the Prime Minister's Office has spent on speech-coaching and related consultancy since 27 June 2007. [160289]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is not held centrally and therefore is available only at disproportionate cost.

Higher Civil Servants: Donations

Frank Dobson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether there are rules governing donations by senior civil servants to political parties in foreign countries. [160377]

Edward Miliband *[holding answer 23 October 2007]:* Civil servants are required to conduct themselves in accordance with the provisions of the Civil Service Code and the Civil Service Management Code, including requirements relating to their involvement in political activities. Copies of the codes are in the Libraries of the House.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether Mr. Jonathan Powell has been on the Government payroll since 27 June. [160252]

Edward Miliband: Jonathan Powell's contract of employment as a special adviser ended on 27 June.

Official Residences: Admiralty House

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the floor area is of each of the three official ministerial residences in Admiralty House. [158681]

Edward Miliband: The floor area of the ministerial residences in Admiralty House is 859 sq m.

Social Security Benefits: Voluntary Organisations

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the role of voluntary sector organisations in the delivery of benefit entitlements. [160644]

Phil Hope: Ministers regularly attend meetings as part of the process of policy development and advice. It is not the normal practice of Government to disclose details of such meetings.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

British Standard BS7666

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on what date British Standard BS7666, on unique identifiers for each land and property unit, was first established. [158122]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The standard was first published in 1994. Its latest revision was published on 28 July 2006.

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many websites his Department operates; how many it operated at 1 January 2005; and what the estimated annual cost was of running his Department's websites in each of the last five years. [157837]

Mr. Thomas: The principal websites for which BERR has been responsible are:

www.berr.gov.uk
www.accountingforpeople.gov.uk
www.autoindustry.co.uk
www.communicationswhitepaper.gov.uk/
www.csr.gov.uk
www.qualitymark.org.uk
www.queensawards.org.uk
www.ukishelp.co.uk
www.berrstats.gov.uk
www.og.dti.gov.uk

A full list of all websites currently operated by BERR and its related public bodies is not held centrally, nor does such information exist centrally for the position at 1 January 2005. BERR is currently undertaking a review of sites as part of the Cabinet Office's process of website rationalisation. The cost of maintaining the core BERR site is included in a single annual charge—currently £979,000, to include all support activities.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many hits the *(a)* most popular and *(b)* least popular website run by his Department has received since 1 January 2007. [157838]

Mr. Thomas: BERR collates centrally the statistical information on visits to its core website, www.berr.gov.uk. A full list of statistical information for other websites operated by BERR and related public bodies is not held centrally.

For the period 1 January 2007 to 31 August 2007, www.berr.gov.uk had:

	Number
Visits	6,607,142
Visitors	6,083,250
Page views	23,570,525

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent by the Department, and its predecessor on official hospitality in the last 12 months. [158928]

Mr. Thomas: Spending by the Department (prior to 28 June the DTI) on entertainment and hospitality for the 12 months to 30 September totalled £1,232,000, of which £196,000 related to spending by UK Trade and Investment.

Departments: Reorganisation

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the estimated cost of re-branding is expected to be following the formation of his Department. [157839]

Mr. Thomas: Costs to date associated with the use of the name of the new Department are approximately £77,000. These include the costs of design, items such as new signage and changes to the website and other electronic media. As promised in my answer to a question from the hon. Member for Richmond Park, (Susan Kramer) on 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 278W, we plan to provide a full account of extra expenditure relating to the establishment of the new Department to the Library of both Houses at the time of the winter supplementary estimates in November.

Departments: Road Traffic Offences

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many fixed penalty tickets were incurred by vehicles within the purview of his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the total cost was. [157835]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform operate a policy that road traffic violations such as parking tickets and speeding fines are the responsibility of staff, and are not reimbursed from public resources. No records are kept on any penalties incurred by their drivers on official business, and no financial cost has been incurred by the Department.

The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) provide official vehicles for use by Ministers and senior officials within departments. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the under-Secretary of State for Transport, my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Canning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick), on 18 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1186W.

Departments: Secondment

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff are seconded to his Department from outside Government; from which outside body each has been seconded; and what the length is of each secondment. [157836]

Mr. Thomas: The Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) welcome opportunities to promote and exchange best practice with organisations outside Government by way of secondment.

There are currently 25 secondees working with BERR. The attached table lists the names of organisations and length of secondment as requested.

BERR: Inward secondees from non-Government organisations

	Length of contract				
Employer	*Months*	*1 year*	*2 years*	*3 years*	*4 years*
Corus Rail	—	—	2	—	—
Black and Veatch	—	1	—	—	—
Cassella CEL Ltd	—	1	—		—
PWC	—	1	—	—	—
Assoc Independent Music	—	1	—	—	—
AMEC	—	—	2	—	—
Thomas Miller		—	2	—	—
Royal Bank Scotland		—	2	—	—
AMEC	—	—	2	—	—
PWC		—	2	—	—
AEA Technology Plc	—	—	—	—	4
Thales Avionics	—	—	2	—	—
Credit Suisse	—	—	2	—	—
PWC	—	1.5	—	—	—
Deloitte	—	1.5	—	—	—
Deloitte	6	—	—	—	—
Lazard	—	—	—	—	—
Ernst and Young	—	1.5	—	—	—
E.ON	—	1	—	—	—
Ernst and Young	—	1	—	—	—
Scottish Power	—	1	—	—	—
Scottish and Southern Energy	—	1	—	—	—
National Grid	—	—	2	—	—
UK Petroleum Industry Association	—	—	2	—	—
National Grid	—	—	—	3.5	—

Departments: Standards

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many of his Department's public service agreement targets *(a)* take and *(b)* do not take account of rural proofing. [159633]

Mr. Thomas: BERR will lead on three public service agreements (PSAs) in the period covered by the recent comprehensive spending review, i.e. 2008-11:

PSA 1: Raise the productivity of the UK economy;

PSA 6: Deliver the conditions for business success in the UK;

PSA 7: Improve the economic performance of all English regions and reduce the gap in economic growth rates between regions.

PSA 1 and PSA 6 target change in the whole economy and the underlying policies apply to businesses across the board, whether rural or urban.

PSA 7 on regional economic performance aims to ensure that the Government's policies nationally, regionally and locally are aligned to maximise the potential for sustainable economic growth. Recognising that there may be trade-offs between policies to lift growth at different spatial scales, the delivery plan commits the Government to carry out further analysis to examine the trade-offs and, in particular, minimise the risk to increasing disparities between peripheral rural areas and other parts of a region.

Departments: Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 13 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1080W, on Departments: trade unions, what other projects implemented by domestic trade unions his Department has funded in the last period for which figures are available. [147928]

Mr. McFadden: Since 1997 the Government have had three strategic funds to encourage better industrial relations and increase modern working practices. The Partnership at Work Fund and the Strategic Partnership Fund were available to both companies and unions.

The following tables give (a) the commitments to unions under the Partnership at Work Fund and, (b) actual payments to unions under the Strategic Partnership Fund and the Union Modernisation Fund.

(a) Funds committed to unions 2000-03

Union	*Year in which commitment made*	*Amount given (£)*	*Fund*
AEEU	2000	49,912	Partnership Fund[1]
Unison	2000	32,500	Partnership Fund
Community and Youth Workers Union	2000	50,000	Partnership Fund
Unison	2000	13,440	Partnership Fund
TUC	2000	14,450	Partnership Fund
TUC	2000	24,300	Partnership Fund
Scottish TUC	2000	37,575	Partnership Fund
MSF	2000	20,000	Partnership Fund
Royal College of Midwives	2000	34,000	Partnership Fund
MSF	2000	30,000	Partnership Fund
MSF	2000	26,405	Partnership Fund
Unison	2000	50,000	Partnership Fund
TGWU	2001	50,000	Partnership Fund
Unison	2001	14,000	Partnership Fund
Numast	2002	36,800	Partnership Fund
Amicus	2002	47,360	Partnership Fund
TUC	2002	43,015	Partnership Fund
TGWU	2002	42,276	Partnership Fund
Royal College of Nursing	2002	18,650	Partnership Fund
Unison	2003	50,000	Partnership Fund

[1] The Partnership at Work Fund was a Government grant scheme established by the DTI created in 1999 to encourage the development of industrial relations by encouraging employers and employees to work together effectively. The Partnership at Work Fund supported partnership projects within individual organisations. The fund is now closed.

(b) Funds paid to unions

Union	*Amount (£)*	*Fund*
Year ended 31 March 2005		
TUC	26,472	Strategic Partnership Fund[1]
GPMU	3,880	Strategic Partnership Fund
GMB	96,871	Strategic Partnership Fund
Amicus	37,592	Strategic Partnership Fund
TUC	12,544	Strategic Partnership Fund
UCATT	61,045	Strategic Partnership Fund
Year ended 31 March 2006		
TUC	21,512	Strategic Partnership Fund
GMB	108,000	Strategic Partnership Fund
Amicus	261,381	Strategic Partnership Fund
TUC	34,270	Strategic Partnership Fund
UCATT	69,898	Strategic Partnership Fund
Year ended 31 March 2007		
GMB	15,000	Strategic Partnership Fund
TUC	68,000	Strategic Partnership Fund
UCATT	4,443	Strategic Partnership Fund

(b) Funds paid to unions

Union	*Amount (£)*	*Fund*
GMB	23,340.53	Union Modernisation Fund[2]
Wales TUC	12,252.64	Union Modernisation Fund
National Union of Teachers	7,377.84	Union Modernisation Fund
Royal College of Midwives	43,329.35	Union Modernisation Fund
Union of Finance Staff	7,083.30	Union Modernisation Fund
United Road Transport Union	24,330.00	Union Modernisation Fund
Community and District Nursing Association	8,125.65	Union Modernisation Fund
British Dental Association	6,047.75	Union Modernisation Fund
Connect	28,647.63	Union Modernisation Fund
USDAW	104,011.73	Union Modernisation Fund
National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers	32,489.00	Union Modernisation Fund
National Union of Journalists	11,475.34	Union Modernisation Fund
ASLEF	13,232.25	Union Modernisation Fund
General Federation of Trade Unions	23,284.48	Union Modernisation Fund
Portman Group Staff Association	6,070.70	Union Modernisation Fund

[1] Strategic Partnership projects reach out beyond single company projects to assess sectoral and regional issues.
[2] The Union Modernisation Fund provides financial assistance to independent trade unions and their federations in support of innovative projects, which contribute to, or explore the potential for transformational change in the organisational effectiveness of efficiency of a union or unions, in the light of the changing needs, aspirations and behaviour of workers and employers in the changing UK Labour market.

Industrial Disputes: Ballots

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans his Department has to bring forward proposals to amend legislation or regulations on the conduct of ballots for industrial action by trade unions. [160432]

Mr. McFadden: We would not bring forward proposals in this area without fully consulting employers and other interested parties in advance. Such consultations have not taken place.

Macfarlan Smith: Monopolies

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department has undertaken the analysis set out in paragraph 13 of the response of the Department for Trade and Industry to the Office of Fair Trading's review of undertakings by Macfarlan Smith Limited (SML), published in September 2006. [160742]

Mr. Thomas: The Home Office is responsible for licensing and has lead responsibility for implementing the Government Action Plan. The work to which the hon. Member refers—analysis of the effect of Macfarlan Smith Limited's position of customers in other countries—is ongoing.

Marine Legislation: Devolution

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many meetings have taken place between his Department and its predecessor and the Scottish Executive's *(a)* Enterprise, Energy and Tourism Directorate and *(b)* Marine Directorate since May regarding the devolution of further powers for the Scottish Parliament under UK marine legislation. [155753]

Mr. Thomas: No such meetings have taken place.

Overseas Trade: Burma

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what records his Department keeps of which UK registered companies are trading *(a)* with and *(b)* in Burma. [160100]

Mr. Thomas: We do not actively keep records of which UK registered companies are trading with, or in Burma. However, we do follow reports of companies activities produced by the UN, NGOs and other organisations. We monitor the level of UK corporate activities through statistics from the Office of National Statistics and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, which show that trade and investment in Burma has fallen in recent years.

Post Offices: Closures

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* urban and *(b)* rural post offices closed in (i) the UK and (ii) Wales in each year since 1997. [160735]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Post Offices: Portsmouth

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform at which post offices proposed for closure in Portsmouth the postmaster has applied for a severance or redundancy payment. [160477]

Mr. McFadden: Sub post office closures under Post Office Ltd's network change programme will be compulsory in order to meet access criteria and to ensure national coverage and reasonable access to post office services is maintained.

Post Offices: Suffolk

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the likely effect on retail businesses which contain post offices in *(a)* Nacton, *(b)* Sutton, *(c)* Ufford, *(d)* Walberswick, *(e)* Waldringfield, *(f)* Wangford and *(g)* Wrentham of proposed outreach facilities being substituted for current services. [160629]

Mr. McFadden: It is not possible to say what the effect on any associated retail business will be of substituting outreach for current services at individual post offices until the implementation of Post Office Ltd's relevant area network change plan is completed. Post Office Ltd's local decisions will need to reflect the Government's aim of supporting a national network of post offices and to comply with the access criteria requirements set by the Government.

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the likely effect on retail businesses which contain post offices in *(a)* Bramfield, *(b)* Knodishall, *(c)* Reydon and *(d)* Hasketon Road, Woodbridge of the proposed post office closures. [160630]

Mr. McFadden: It is not possible to say what effect the closure of individual post offices will have on any associated retail business until the implementation of Post Office Ltd's relevant area network change plan is completed. Post Office Ltd's local decisions will need to reflect the Government's aim of supporting a national network of post offices and to comply with the access criteria requirements set by the Government.

Postal Services

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 8 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 356W, on postal services, which of the products and services are not available across the national network. [158137]

Mr. McFadden: This is a commercial and contractual matter for Post Office Ltd and its clients. Alan Cook, the Managing Director of Post Office Ltd, has been asked to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of Royal Mail's proposal to cease Sunday and bank holiday postal collections. [160444]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Royal Mail. The company introduced Sunday collections a few years ago to enhance their service, but there has been very little take up from the public. Sunday postings are very low, but add a huge amount of cost to the business. Royal Mail have to have regard to their costs and are therefore looking to stop Sunday collections.

The Government considers the maintenance of a universal postal service throughout the UK to be of the highest importance. That is why the obligation is enshrined in primary legislation in the Postal Services Act 2000 and why Postcomm has the primary statutory duty to ensure the provision of a universal postal service at an affordable uniform tariff. Sunday and Bank Holiday collections are not part of the universal service obligation.

Postal Services Commission

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of Postcomm in fulfilling its role to protect the universal service and to ensure that operators, including Royal Mail, meet the needs of their customers. [160200]

Mr. McFadden: Postcomm is an independent regulator, and like other independent regulators is accountable directly to Parliament through the Select Committee and the Public Accounts Committee.

HMG continues to engage with Postcomm and the independent consumer body Postwatch to ensure that customers' needs are properly met.

Small Businesses: Closures

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how many small business closures there have been in each region in the last five years; [159875]

(2) how many small businesses have closed in the last five years during their first *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* five years of trading, broken down by region; [159876]

(3) what assessment he has made of the impact of the rate of small business closures on *(a)* each region and *(b)* England. [159877]

Mr. Timms: Data on small business closures by region are not available.

However, data on the number of businesses of all sizes that de-register for VAT each year, and the proportion that remain registered for 1 and 4 years, in each UK region, are published by BERR.

The following table shows the number of VAT de-registrations in each UK region and country 2001-05.

VAT de-registrations in each UK country and region

	De-registrations				
	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
United Kingdom	155,890	162,405	165,530	163,400	152,945
England	136,520	142,375	144,740	142,870	133,230
North East GOR	4,110	3,995	4,010	3,850	3,600
North West GOR	15,500	16,220	15,955	15,650	14,265
Yorkshire and the Humber GOR	11,160	11,560	11,140	11,225	10,745
East Midlands GOR	9,905	10,155	10,695	10,615	9,765
West Midlands GOR	12,740	13,130	14,255	13,860	12,610
East GOR	15,225	15,475	16,115	15,995	14,690
London GOR	30,825	32,625	31,760	32,145	30,230

VAT de-registrations in each UK country and region

	De-registrations				
	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
South East GOR	23,970	25,410	26,540	25,855	24,605
South West GOR	13,080	13,810	14,265	13,680	12,720
Wales	5,465	6,425	6,670	6,015	5,555
Scotland	10,955	10,820	10,930	10,920	10,160
Northern Ireland	2,955	2,785	3,190	3,595	4,005

Source:
Business Start-ups and Closures: VAT Registrations and De-registrations 1994-2005, available at: http://stats.berr.gov.uk/ed/vat

The following table shows the number of businesses that de-registered for VAT within one and four years of registration, for each UK region and country, by year of registration for the latest five years worth of available data. Data for five years after registration are not produced at regional level.

The number of VAT de-registrations within one and four years, by registration year, in each UK country and region

Number de-registering for VAT within one year	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
United Kingdom	16,996	14,621	13,977	13,385	14,519
England	14,992	13,003	12,306	11,778	12,685
North East GOR	428	405	373	353	348
North West GOR	1,870	1,583	1,356	1,254	1,428
Yorkshire and the Humber GOR	1,188	1,120	1,070	983	1,045
East Midlands GOR	1,150	945	898	911	941
West Midlands GOR	1,314	1,257	1,197	1,138	1,198
East GOR	1,463	1,282	1,301	1,218	1,300
London GOR	3,887	3,407	3,197	3,075	3,285
South East GOR	2,364	1,962	1,920	1,876	2,073
South West GOR	1,369	1,041	1,058	1,014	1,038
Wales	610	536	495	493	486
Scotland	1,089	944	902	887	1,030
Northern Ireland	249	220	244	235	332

Number de-registering for VAT within four years	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*
United Kingdom	72,524	74,340	71,651	71,920	65,966
England	63,814	65,748	63,341	63,757	58,439
North East GOR	1,661	1,691	1,720	1,757	1,618
North West GOR	7,700	7,650	7,290	7,222	6,660
Yorkshire and the Humber GOR	4,732	4,899	4,696	4,922	4,479
East Midlands GOR	4,469	4,541	4,250	4,507	4,185
West Midlands GOR	5,888	5,951	5,778	5,707	5,507
East GOR	6,764	6,630	6,384	6,770	6,112
London GOR	15,727	17,413	16,620	16,457	14,830
South East GOR	11,085	11,188	10,836	10,782	9,892
South West GOR	5,802	5,845	5,779	5,691	5,088
Wales	2,431	2,435	2,350	2,491	2,241
Scotland	5,092	5,086	4,832	4,583	4,315
Northern Ireland	1,077	1,120	1,069	981	987

Source:
BERR analysis of VAT and survival rate data

VAT registration and de-registration data for 2006 will be published on 14 November 2007. Survival data will not be produced again until 2009.

New VAT registrations exceeded de-registrations in the UK (and in all regions) between 2001 and 2005. The stock of VAT registered businesses rose by 4 per cent. during the period.

VAT registrations do not capture all business activity. Businesses are unlikely to be registered if they fall below the compulsory VAT threshold, which was £60,000 at the start of 2006. Similarly, businesses that de-register may not have closed. Only 1.9 million out of 4.5 million UK enterprises (41 per cent.) were registered for VAT at the start of 2006.

Although data on the number of VAT de-registrations are routinely collected and monitored, there is currently no general information on the impact of business closures at regional and national level. However a study commissioned for the London Development Agency in 2005[1] showed that out of the 790,000 jobs lost through SMEs closing down in London between 2001 and 2003, 88 per cent. found immediate employment elsewhere, 8 per cent. went in self-employment and 1 per cent. into training. Only 3 per cent. went into unemployment.

At appropriate levels, business closures are a necessary part of the productive churn process, creating space for more productive and innovative firms to expand, and therefore an important step in boosting regional and national productivity. Data on closures, including data at a regional level, are routinely collected and monitored.

[1] Business Closures in London: Final Report, 2005, TBR Economics

Trade Union Political Funds

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what advice and guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Certification Officer has provided on whether trade union members who opt out of a political fund of their trade union should (i) be refunded and (ii) not be charged the cost of the political fund contribution when they pay their union subscriptions. [158689]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has produced guidance on the law regarding political funds in a publication entitled "Trade union political funds: a guide for trade unions, their members and others". That guidance describes the law relating to the freedom of union members to contract out of paying the political levy.

The Certification Officer has produced guidance on contracting out of a political fund in a publication entitled "Guidance for trade unions and employers' associations wishing to establish a political fund". The guidance contains the statutory requirements relating to the manner of giving effect to exemptions.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Certification Officer has produced on whether a trade union may use non-political fund resources to fund an affiliated organisation that then engages in political activity. [158690]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has produced guidance on the law regarding political funds in a publication entitled "Trade union political funds: a

guide for trade unions, their members and others". That guidance describes the law relating to unlawful expenditure on political objects.

The Certification Officer has also produced two guidance publications: "Guidance for trade unions and employers' associations wishing to establish a political fund" and "Guide to political fund review ballots". These contain the statutory provisions which restrict the expenditure of union funds on political objectives.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance his *(a)* Department and *(b)* the Certification Officer has produced on whether trade union members who opt out of the political fund should pay a different union membership fee from those who remain in the fund. [153418]

Mr. McFadden: The Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has produced guidance on the law regarding political funds in a publication entitled 'Trade union political funds: a guide for trade unions, their members and others'. That guidance describes the law relating to the freedom of union members to contract out of paying the political levy.

The Certification Officer has also produced guidance on this issue in a publication entitled 'Guidance for trade unions and employers' associations wishing to establish a political fund'.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Certification Officer has produced on whether application forms to join a trade union should mention the rights of the trade union member to opt out of the political fund. [153420]

Mr. McFadden: Neither the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform nor the Certification Officer has produced guidance on this topic.

Trade: Barbados

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value was of *(a)* imports and *(b)* exports of (i) goods and (ii) services between Barbados and the United Kingdom in each of the last 10 years for which information is available. [161081]

Mr. Thomas: The information is as follows.

(i) Overseas Trade Statistics recorded data for UK trade in goods with Barbados are shown in the following table:

		£ million
	UK imports of goods from Barbados	*UK exports of goods to Barbados*
1997	30.9	37.2
1998	28.3	42.5
1999	21.5	43.4
2000	24.5	51.4
2001	40.2	55.7
2002	25.0	39.6
2003	20.9	52.3
2004	20.0	42.2
2005	23.0	55.6
2006	19.9	47.0

(ii) Data on trade in services are not available for the full 10 years requested. table 9.13 of the UK Balance of Payments "Pink Book 2007" gives the following figures for UK trade in services with Barbados:

		£ million
	UK imports of services from Barbados	*UK exports of services to Barbados*
2005	695	53
2006	832	55

Trade: Bermuda

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value was of *(a)* imports and *(b)* exports of (i) goods and (ii) services between Bermuda and the United Kingdom in each of the last 10 years for which information is available. [161087]

Mr. Thomas: The information is as follows.

(i) Overseas Trade Statistics recorded data for UK trade in goods with Bermuda are shown in the following table:

		£ million
	UK imports of goods from Bermuda	*UK exports of goods to Bermuda*
1997	54.2	55.4
1998	3.7	40.2
1999	39.3	183.7
2000	1.8	375.9
2001	45.3	34.0
2002	18.0	30.9
2003	68.0	42.0
2004	55.6	32.5
2005	16.0	20.3
2006	73.7	19.6

(ii) Data on trade in services are not available for the full 10 years requested. table 9.13 of the UK Balance of Payments "Pink Book 2007" gives the following figures for UK trade in services with Bermuda:

		£ million
	UK imports of services from Bermuda	*UK exports of services to Bermuda*
2005	297	683
2006	357	705

Union Modernisation Fund

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether any payments have been withheld by his Department from projects awarded funding under round one of the Union Modernisation Fund. [159883]

Mr. McFadden: As at 30 September 2007, no payments have been withheld from projects awarded funding under round one of the Union Modernisation Fund.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for how many projects awarded funding under round one of the Union Modernisation Fund an independent accountant's report has been received by his Department. [159955]

Mr. McFadden: By 30 September 6 independent accountant's reports had been received from unions that have completed projects under round one of the Union Modernisation Fund.

The report accompanies the final claim and confirms that the union has expended the sums in respect of which all claims have been made.

Union Modernisation Fund: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value of payments made by the Union Modernisation Fund was in each year for which figures are available. [148922]

Mr. McFadden: Payments made by the Union Modernisation Fund totalled £754,738 in financial year 2006-07, and £218,566 in financial year 2007-08.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Tax Benefits: Hampshire

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what council tax benefits were paid in each local authority in Hampshire in each year since 2000-01; what estimate she has made of the number of eligible people failing to claim such benefits in each local authority; and if she will make a statement. [156696]

Mr. Plaskitt: I have been asked to reply

Estimates of the number eligible but not receiving council tax benefit are not available below the level of Great Britain. Estimates of the numbers eligible and not receiving council tax benefit in Great Britain can be found in the series 'Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up'. Copies of the report are available in the Library.

The available information is in the following table.

Council tax benefit expenditure for Hampshire local authorities (in nominal terms)

							£ million
	2000-01	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Basingstoke	3.1	3.2	3.8	4.6	5.1	5.5	6.0
East Hampshire	2.3	2.4	2.6	3.1	3.6	3.9	4.0
Eastleigh	2.7	2.7	2.9	3.5	3.9	4.2	4.4
Fareham	2.0	2.1	2.2	2.7	3.0	3.4	3.5
Gosport	2.3	2.4	2.6	3.1	3.5	3.8	4.1
Hart	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.6	1.9	2.1	2.3
Havant	4.3	4.5	4.8	5.7	6.6	7.1	7.4
New Forest	4.8	5.1	5.4	6.4	7.4	7.8	8.1
Rushmoor	1.9	2.0	2.1	2.8	3.1	3.5	3.7
Test Valley	2.2	2.3	2.6	3.2	3.7	4.0	4.3
Winchester	2.4	2.5	2.7	3.2	3.6	3.9	4.1
Total for Hampshire	29.2	30.3	32.9	40.0	45.4	49.2	52.0

Notes:
1. Figures are presented to the nearest 100,000.
2. Figures presented for years up to 2005-06 are audited, but may change in future if local authorities' accounts are amended after a decision or appeal. Figures for recent years are more likely to be amended than older data. 2006-07 figures are from initial final (pre-audited) subsidy claims, so are subject to change once audited data become available.
3. Local authority level information includes council tax benefit expenditure reimbursed by the DWP, that funded by local authorities, and expenditure relating to asylum seekers, which since 1999-2000 has been funded by the National Asylum Support Service (part of the home office).
4. Figures relate to what local authorities spend on claimants and include discretionary expenditure (mainly disregards of War Pensions), and overpayments except where benefit has been granted in advance (where the benefit is paid in the form of a rebate).
5. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
6. Figures up to 2005-06 are available at:
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/HBandCTB_expenditure.asp
Source:
Information sourced from Local Authority claims for Council Tax Benefit subsidy

Council Tax: Parish Councils

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much parish precepts on council tax are estimated to raise across England in 2007-08. [157645]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1674W.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research,

including opinion research and polling, her Department has *(a)* undertaken in-house and *(b)* commissioned from external sources in relation to council tax revaluation in England. [157587]

John Healey: None.

Departments: Contracts

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many invitations to tender her Department and its predecessor have issued since 2002; and for what purpose in each case. [157695]

John Healey: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Departments: Disadvantaged People

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will give examples of the use her Department has made of the Compact Codes of Good Practice on Community Groups and on Black and Ethnic Minority Organisations in its work on communities, cohesion and integration; and if she will make a statement. [160114]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department takes its obligations under the five Compact codes very seriously.

Examples include:

Communities and Local Government has a Public Sector Agreement Target to reduce the perception of discrimination in key public services, and in the labour market, and to increase the perception of community cohesion in key areas of the country. The CSR announcement of 9 October set out our key objectives for the coming three years, including further targets on reducing discrimination, and a key target to increase the representation of BME groups in public life—as magistrates, councillors, school governors etc.;

Following publication of the Quirk Review, "Making Assets Work", in May 2007, the Government accepted its recommendations and an implementation plan is now being taken forward in partnership with all relevant public bodies;

The recommendations of the December 2004 Home Office framework for community capacity building, "Firm Foundations", have been taken forward and are reflected in the Local Government White Paper and the Action Plan for Community Empowerment, "Building on Success".

We have led the development of the "Take Part" scheme for citizenship learning for adults, which will promote active citizenship.

Departments: Discrimination

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many claims have been made against *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies under the Sex Discrimination Act since 2002; and what the outcome of each case was. [155707]

Mr. Dhanda: Since the Department for Communities and Local Government came into being in May 2006, three sex discrimination cases have been brought against it or its agencies under the Sex Discrimination Act. Two were withdrawn after agreement was reached without admission of liability by the Department. The third was withdrawn by the claimant.

Information about predecessor Departments is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Official Hospitality

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department spent in total on travel, subsistence and hospitality in the last year for which audited figures are available. [157685]

John Healey: As stated in the Communities and Local Government (CLG) Resource Accounts 2006-07 (HC 836, 12 July 2007), the total expenditure on travel, subsistence and hospitality was £5.709 million, including expenditure for the Government offices.

All expenditure incurred on travel, subsistence and hospitality by civil servants and Ministers of the Department is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the Civil Service Management Code and the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers, as well as published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in Government Accounting.

Departments: Standards

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of her Department's public service agreement targets *(a)* take and *(b)* do not take account of rural proofing. [159637]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government (CLG) lead on two cross-department public service agreements. Both have been developed taking account of rural proofing and in discussion with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA).

PSA 20

The Delivery Agreement for 'Increase long-term housing supply and affordability' encompasses both urban and rural areas. CLG will be working in partnership with DEFRA to ensure issues in rural communities are addressed. As a partner, DEFRA have specific responsibilities with regard housing in rural areas which are set out in paragraph 3.14 of the Delivery Agreement.

The recent housing Green Paper "Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable" outlines Government's plan for delivering the additional homes this country needs. It includes (chapter 1) specific proposals for meeting the rural challenge.

PSA 21

The rural context was considered in developing PSA 21 'Build more cohesive, empowered and active communities'. DEFRA play a key role in helping build more cohesive, empowered and active rural communities, which is set out in the Delivery Agreement in paragraphs 3.21 to 3.23 inclusive.

Elections: Bedfordshire

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether district, town and parish council elections will be held in South Bedfordshire District in May 2008 following

the proposals for a unitary council for this area in 2009; and if she will make a statement; [160879]

(2) which district, parish and town councils will bear the cost of elections in South Bedfordshire District in May 2008. [160880]

John Healey: On 25 July my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced that she was minded to implement Bedford borough's proposal for unitary status and that we intend formally to invite all other councils in Bedfordshire to propose a unitary solution that would meet the criteria for that remaining area. We have yet to take final decisions on the structural arrangements in Bedfordshire and whether, as a consequence, there are to be district, town and parish elections in 2008.

Emergencies: Planning

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration has been given to potential *(a)* enhancement of multi-agency response resilience and *(b)* financial efficiencies, from combining the training offered by location of the Fire Service College and the Emergency Planning College on one site. [160647]

Mr. Dhanda: Traditionally the Fire Service College has focused on specialist training for the Fire and Rescue Service at the operational (bronze) and tactical (silver) levels. With the need to develop and enhance national resilience the college has undergone a period of considerable change and there is now more focus on command and control of major incidents and on the exposure of Fire and Rescue Staff to multi agency working at the strategic (gold) level.

We have invested significantly in new training facilities and student accommodation at the Fire Service College and it has a large and unique incident ground which would readily support multi-agency working. There is already a degree of co-operation with the Emergency Planning College and, with closer collaboration having the potential to enhance the multi agency approach to large scale operational exercises and strengthen national resilience, the options for more joint working are being actively explored.

Ethnic Groups: Equal Opportunities

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department plans to produce the proposed race equality duty toolkit. [157759]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department undertook to work with the Commission for Racial Equality to produce an internal guide for Whitehall Departments on mainstreaming race equality duties. Unfortunately, it proved impossible to agree the content between us before the CRE merged into the new Equality and Human Rights Commission on 1 October 2007. We are continuing to work with the new Commission to determine how best to ensure that Departments can improve their performance.

European Regional Development Fund: Fines

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what risk and contingent liabilities her Department has allowed for in relation to potential fines from the European Commission for not correcting the deficiencies in the allocation of European Regional Development Fund funds and potential fraud. [157671]

John Healey: As stated in the Communities and Local Government annual report 2007, laid before the House on 17 May 2007 (Cm 7094), the Department has a contingent liability in place for £62 million. The Department is working hard to satisfy the European Commission's concerns and ensure any possible fine would be considerably less than this. The Commission have yet to take final decisions, and it should also be noted that there has never been any suggestion of fraud in the issues raised by the Commission.

Fire Services

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what delays have occurred in meeting *(a)* milestones and *(b)* targets in relation to the Firelink contract. [157672]

Mr. Dhanda: The Firelink contract was let in March 2006. Achievement of the first four milestones has been delayed. Milestone 1, relating to production of detailed plans and designs by the contractor, was achieved in March 2007, six months later than originally planned. This was largely due to the need to ensure the contractor's basis for project implementation was robust, and had the support of the Fire and Rescue Service. Sign off of Milestones 2-4, which relate to the installation of the network infrastructure is currently being withheld to ensure that the contractor's proposed schedule for implementation is realistic. There are no other overdue Milestones at present. The overall target date for completion of Firelink with voice functionality is 2009, and this remains unchanged since contract signature; and as each brigade migrates to their regional control centre they will obtain full functionality including data transmission.

Fire Services: Contracts

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what account was taken of her Department's policy of encouraging small and medium-sized enterprises to participate in public sector contracts when awarding the contract under the Integrated Clothing Project for the Fire and Rescue Service; and if she will make a statement. [160487]

Mr. Dhanda: In line with the Small Business Friendly Concordat, launched by the Office of Deputy Prime Minister, the Local Government Association and the Small Business Service in March 2005, Firebuy Ltd. has actively engaged with Small and Medium sized Enterprises (SME) and encouraged them to participate in all national tenders.

The preferred bidder for the Integrated Clothing Project is a Small and Medium sized Enterprise.

Fire Services: Firebuy

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what process was followed by Firebuy Limited in setting the technical specifications for procurement on behalf of the Fire and Rescue Service; what mechanism is in place to provide assurance in relation to this process; what recent *(a)* discussions she has had and *(b)* representations she has received from (i) the Fire and Rescue Service and (ii) others on the (A) procedures and practices, (B) conclusions and (C) overall performance against objectives of Firebuy Limited in relation to the Integrated Clothing Project; and if she will make a statement. [160485]

Mr. Dhanda: The Integrated Clothing Project operates under the principles of the Prince2 project management method and is subject to Gateway reviews by the 4ps (Public Private Partnerships Programme) who are the local government procurement experts. Firebuy Ltd. works with the Chief Fire Officers Association, as the professional voice of the Fire and Rescue Service, in the setting of national technical specifications. The testing methodology utilised by Firebuy Limited, for Personal Protective Equipment, has become the benchmark process and is now contained within European Standards.

There have been recent *(a)* discussions and *(b)* representation from both (i) Fire and Rescue Authorities (FRAs) and (ii) suppliers to the industry on when the Integrated Clothing Project will be let as this kit is required urgently by some FRAs. It is too soon to comment on the (A) procedures and practices, (B) conclusions and (C) overall performance against objectives as the project has just completed the Stage 3 Gateway Review, which looked at the investment decision.

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much Firebuy Limited has spent on determining the *(a)* items and *(b)* item specifications of procurement on behalf of the Fire and Rescue Service; and over what period of time such determination was conducted. [160486]

Mr. Dhanda: The costs of determining the *(a)* items and *(b)* items specifications of procurement on behalf of the Fire and Rescue Service cannot be quantified as separate components within the Firebuy Ltd. budget. These activities are intrinsic to Firebuy Ltd.'s purpose as the national procurement agency which develops user requirement specifications.

Since Firebuy Ltd. was formerly established on 1 April 2006 it has spent approximately £1.5 million per annum on various procurement operations. This expenditure includes staff costs, project scoping, developing specifications, inviting and evaluating tenders from the market and awarding and managing contracts and framework agreements. Firebuy Ltd. has already delivered over £lm savings since September 2005 when it was set up as Company Limited by Guarantee. Expected future benefits for Fire and Rescue Authorities are estimated at £10 million over the next five years.

Fire Services: Procurement

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the Stage 3 Review of the Integrated Clothing Project by 4ps (Public and Private Partnerships Programme) gateway review team undertaken from 18 to 20 June. [159132]

Mr. Dhanda: The stage 3 Gateway review on the Integrated Clothing Project will be made available on the Firebuy website (www.firebuy.gov.uk) as soon as it is published.

Floods: Council Tax

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment her Department has made of the potential effect on council tax bills of the recent flooding in the worst flood-hit areas. [153797]

John Healey: Decisions on the level of council tax are a matter for individual authorities. To date the Government has made available a significant package of over 46 million to support areas affected by the flooding of June and July 2007. This includes:

£17,390,000 in Flood Recovery Grant released to local authorities affected by the floods to support their work in helping those in greatest and most immediate need.

£13,288,000 released to schools and children's services affected by the floods

An initial £3 million for local authorities to repair damage to the local highway

Over £11 million from Regional Development Agencies for businesses affected in their regions

£1 million for use by Jobcentre Plus to support additional demand for Social Fund Community Care Grants

£1 million to support rural tourism in England through promoting rural destinations and visitor attractions and a targeted marketing campaign.

This is additional money to that available under the Bellwin scheme which provides emergency financial assistance from Government to local authorities, to help meet the uninsurable costs of immediate action to safeguard life or property or prevent severe inconvenience to inhabitants in the case of an emergency or disaster. In recognition of the exceptional nature of the recent flooding we have made it easier for local authorities to claim back additional costs from Government through the Bellwin scheme by significantly extending the period for which authorities can claim and increasing the proportion of costs they can receive in support grants to 100 per cent. above threshold.

Floods: Grants

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether councils receiving 100 per cent. Bellwin contributions following the recent flooding will have to pay for the Bellwin threshold contribution from their own resources. [157452]

John Healey: Yes. In keeping with the established principals of the Bellwin scheme we take the view—as have previous Administrations—that it is reasonable to

expect authorities to cover costs themselves up to a certain level. Every authority is required to maintain reserves, one of whose main purposes is to meet unexpected costs.

The threshold above which an authority is eligible to claim Bellwin funding is 0.2 per cent. of its annual budget and is only applied once in the financial year. Therefore, if an authority exceeded its threshold in June and was hit by floods again in July it would not be required to spend up to the threshold in July before qualifying for grant. For the recent flooding, expenditure above the threshold will be eligible for 100 per cent. assistance from Government, and the Bellwin scheme announced for the recent flooding was, alongside that for the floods in 2000, the most generous ever announced.

Gardens: Heating

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make an assessment of the merits of powers for local authorities *(a)* to regulate and *(b)* to ban the use of out-door patio heaters on licensed premises; and if she will make a statement. [158429]

Mr. Dhanda: The Government have no plans to introduce powers for local authorities to regulate or ban the use of outdoor patio heaters on licensed premises.

Homelessness: Expenditure

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how much homelessness grant was paid to each London local authority in each of the last five years; [158998]

(2) how much homelessness grant was paid to voluntary sector organisations in each London constituency in each of the last five years. [158999]

Mr. Iain Wright: Since 2003-04, the majority of our homelessness grants are paid to local authorities to support them in their work on tackling and preventing homelessness effectively. Previously the majority of funding went direct to the voluntary sector. We do however continue to provide homelessness funding direct to the voluntary sector, where appropriate.

The following table shows the level of revenue and capital funding allocated to London local authorities over the last five years.

	2003-04	*2004-05*		*2005-06*	
London authority	*Revenue (no capital allocated)*	*Revenue*	*Capital*	*Revenue*	*Capital*
Barking and Dagenham	68,000.00	28,000	—	28,000	—
Barnet	435,000.00	165,000	—	214,000	88
Bexley	130,800.00	58,000	—	58,000	—
Brent	1,423,000.00	783,000	—	745,500	2,886,000
Bromley	183,500.00	100,000	—	100,000	—
Camden	1,834,192.00	1,800,000	—	1,600,000	3,172,000
City of London	656,000.00	515,000	—	265,000	650,000
Croydon Council	1,104,000.00	600,000	—	575,000	—
Ealing	1,224,608.00	600,000	—	600,000	—
Enfield	509,000.00	250,000	—	300,000	—
GLA	—	40,000	—	—	—
Greenwich	113,000.00	100,000	—	63,000	—
Hackney	646,000.00	640,000	—	637,000	—
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,300,500.00	1,500,000	470,000	1,624,000	1,127,000
Haringey	473,500.00	200,000	—	200,000	—
Harrow	181,000.00	183,000	—	290,000	—
Havering	27,000.00	27,000	—	27,000	—
Hillingdon	780,000.00	80,000	—	80,000	—
Hounslow	459,000.00	180,000	—	165,000	—
Islington	329,700.00	357,000	—	325,000	—
Kensington and Chelsea	1,565,511.00	943,000	—	875,000	1,350,000
Kingston upon Thames	121,000.00	90,000	—	164,000	—
Lambeth	1,388,739.00	2,100,000	—	2,000,000	—
Lewisham	290,000.00	100,000	474,000	158,264	4,000,000
Merton	75,000.00	80,000	—	192,000	—
Newham	1,257,000.00	250,000	—	212,000	—
Redbridge	292,000.00	105,000	—	100,000	—
Richmond	386,576.00	295,000	—	295,000	—
Southwark	766,524.00	1,100,000	353,000	1,063,000	200,000
Sutton	193,000.00	150,000	—	115,000	—
Tower Hamlets	876,050.00	800,000	—	810,000	1,090,000
Waltham Forest	383,000.00	200,000	—	200,000	—
Wandsworth	546,000.00	300,000	—	300,000	—

London authority	2003-04 Revenue (no capital allocated)	2004-05 Revenue	2004-05 Capital	2005-06 Revenue	2005-06 Capital
Westminster	4,434,374.00	7,366,000	9,480,000	6,700,000	5,113,000
Totals	24,452,574	22,085,000	10,777,000	21,080,764	19,588,988

London authority	2006-07 Revenue	2006-07 Capital	2007-08 Revenue (allocations to date)	2007-08 Capital (allocations to date)
Barking and Dagenham	100,000	—	105,300	—
Barnet	327,000	—	180,000	—
Bexley	88,000	—	140,000	—
Brent	780,000	225,000	885,000	—
Bromley	135,000	—	135,000	—
Camden	1,870,000	3,150,000	1,600,000	—
City of London	275,000	—	295,000	—
Croydon Council	562,000	—	580,000	—
Ealing	895,000	—	640,000	—
Enfield	250,000	—	250,000	—
GLA	—	—	—	—
Greenwich	218,000	—	170,000	—
Hackney	670,000	375,000	590,000	800,000
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,540,000	—	1,500,000	—
Haringey	200,000	—	235,000	—
Harrow	340,000	—	221,000	—
Havering	90,000	—	135,000	—
Hillingdon	130,000	—	100,000	—
Hounslow	205,000	—	240,000	—
Islington	415,000	250,000	400,000	—
Kensington and Chelsea	895,000	376,000	1,037,500	376,000
Kingston upon Thames	215,000	—	120,000	—
Lambeth	2,085,000	1,766,000	2,050,000	—
Lewisham	140,000	150,000	130,000	800,000
Merton	223,155	—	124,700	—
Newham	200,000	111,650	200,000	—
Redbridge	100,000	—	100,000	—
Richmond	335,000	226,500	400,000	73,500
Southwark	1,153,000	400,000	1,140,000	—
Sutton	130,000	—	231,000	—
Tower Hamlets	980,000	170,000	910,000	—
Waltham Forest	240,000	—	240,000	—
Wandsworth	290,000	—	352,000	—
Westminster	6,600,000	525,000	6,600,000	—
Totals	22,676,155	7,725,150	22,036,500	2,049,500

The following table contains the level of funding allocated direct to voluntary sector agencies in London over the last five years as an overall figure and not by each London constituency:

Funding to London voluntary organisations

	Funding (£)
2003-04	20,288,079
2004-05	9,225,948
2005-06	8,906,031
2006-07	9,168,031
2007-08	9,448,000

Housing Market: Regeneration

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research has been commissioned by *(a)* Housing Market Renewal Pathfinders and *(b)* her Department into property speculation in Pathfinder areas earmarked for demolition. [157496]

Mr. Iain Wright: As part of an ongoing national evaluation of the market renewal programme by Ecotec commissioned by the Government, a paper on buy-to-let activity was published in March 2007:

"National Evaluation of Housing Market Renewal Pathfinders: Thematic Paper: Buy-to-Let Housing Market in the HMR Pathfinders".

The thematic paper identified an increase in private investor activity within pathfinder areas since the implementation of the housing market renewal strategy. The emergence of this group of investors has had the impact of diversifying the structure of ownership within pathfinder areas. Commitment to the area has remained strong with the Association of residential Letting Agents (ARLA) reporting in 2004 that nearly two-thirds of respondents expected to hold their stock for at least 10 years and less than 10 per cent. would sell if house prices were to fall.

We and the pathfinders will continue to review market conditions as a fundamental part of establishing strong housing markets across pathfinder areas.

Housing: Grants

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much housing renewal grant funding was allocated to the demolition of properties in each Pathfinder area in each year since 2004-05; and what the estimated figures are for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [157677]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table provides information on the amount of housing market renewal grant funding spent on the demolition of properties in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 as well as estimates of the likely spend in 2007-08. It is not yet possible to provide an estimate of spend on demolition for 2008-09. These figures cover costs relating directly to the demolition of properties and not their acquisition. To date funding under the Housing Market Renewal programme has delivered 10,000 demolitions and 40,000 refurbishments.

	HMRF spent on demolition (£000)			
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08 estimates*
Birmingham Sandwell	209	918	186	285
East Lancashire	501	294	309	480
Hull and East Riding	0	581	285	560
Manchester Salford	830	1,289	1,768	1,935
Merseyside	343	852	1,106	1,884
Newcastle Gateshead	1,135	1,494	1,167	1,000
North Staffordshire	479	148	438	800
Oldham Rochdale	297	244	275	550
South Yorkshire	2,557	774	1,525	1,200
Total	6,351	6,594	7,059	8,694

Housing: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the impact of immigration on *(a)* new house building and *(b)* previously occupied housing, with particular reference to Peterborough. [159576]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 19 October 2007]:* Information is not available centrally on the local impact of migration on household growth. At the England level, the 2004-based household projections show that, for England, 73,000 of the 223,000 annual average household growth (or 33 per cent.) is attributable to net migration.

The draft East of England Plan includes a housing requirement for Peterborough of 25,000 additional dwellings between 2001 and 2021, which takes into account population growth and demographic change. It will be for Peterborough city council and its partners to assess locally how the demand and need for additional housing should be met through its existing and proposed housing stock.

Housing: Voluntary Organisations

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance she is giving to local authorities on the implications of the Government's policy of promoting the role of the third sector in delivering services for the transfer or sale of buildings and other assets to voluntary organisations. [157579]

John Healey: As part of the Government's response to the Quirk Review on community management and ownership of public assets, Communities and Local Government intends to publish new guidance on local authority asset management in general, and including specific guidance on transferring physical assets to community management and ownership, in spring 2008.

The Cabinet Office is directing specific funding support to partnerships of local authorities and third sector organisations to facilitate the transfer of physical assets from local authorities, through its £30 million Community Assets Fund.

Lee Valley Regional Park Authority: Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the precept was on Band D council tax bills set by the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority in each year since 1997-98; [160847]

(2) what the precept was on Band D council tax bills set by the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority in each year since 1997-98. [160881]

John Healey: The Lee Valley Regional Park Authority is funded by a levy on authorities in Essex, Hertfordshire and Greater London and not by a council tax precept.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she plans to amend the Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 1992 in relation to the precept set by the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority. [160849]

John Healey: There are currently no plans to amend the Levying Bodies (General) Regulations 1992 in relation to the levy set by the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority.

Local Authorities: Pensions

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether each local authority pension fund in the East of England is in surplus or in deficit; and by how much in each case. [159213]

John Healey: The 89 funds that comprise the Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales are undergoing an actuarial valuation of their funds as at 31 March 2007, as required by the scheme's regulations. The outcome for each fund, including their solvency position, will not be known until later in the current financial year.

In the meantime, the results from the 2004 valuation for English local authorities participating in the scheme are given at www.xoq83.dial.pipex.com/actvale.pdf

Local Government Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1683W to the hon. Member for Beckenham, on local government finance, whether the funding allocated for participatory budgeting in each of the pilot areas will entirely be allocated according to participation by the public. [157503]

John Healey: Participatory budgeting gives residents a real say in how part of a public budget is spent. The funding in each of the pilot areas set out in the reply of the 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1683W, is being allocated according to participation by the public.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* total budget and *(b)* estimated administration costs are of each Government Office for the Region in England in 2007-08. [157640]

John Healey: The administration budgets for the Government Offices for the regions in 2007-08 are set out in the following table.

	£
GO North East	12,022,830
GO North West	16,115,770
GO Yorks and Humber	13,941,830
GO West Midlands	14,874,610
GO East Midlands	10,944,000
GO East	11,408,590
GO South East	12,929,200
GO South West	13,788,470
GO London	16,305,340

Programme budgets administered by the Government Offices are the responsibility of the Secretaries of State for the relevant sponsor Departments.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department and its taskforces have made of the *(a)* direct and *(b)* indirect costs of local government inspection to (i) central Government and (ii) local government. [157652]

John Healey: The Audit Commission is the only inspectorate of local government to charge a fee element to authorities for inspection. The Department for Communities and Local Government is responsible for sponsorship of the Audit Commission. The total inspection fee income in 2006-07 published by the Commission was around £11 million. This is offset by Revenue Support Grant. CLG also pays grant to the Commission to underwrite the cost of its inspection activity. In 2006-07 this grant totalled £26 million.

The Department does not hold information about the costs of inspection of local authorities by other local inspectorates.

There are no definitive figures to calculate the indirect costs of inspection to local government. The Government are committed to changing the local inspection landscape and significantly reducing the cost and amount of inspection carried out; this includes reducing inspectorate expenditure by around a third over the medium term as overall inspectorate activity is reformed. Indirect costs of inspection are expected to reduce as the amount of inspection is reduced.

Parish Councils: Audit

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations her Department received from the Audit Commission to reform sections 15 and 16 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 in relation to the inspection of accounts and the fees levied on parish councils for carrying out such inspections. [157656]

John Healey: The Audit Commission made representations seeking reform of sections 15 (Inspection of documents and questions at audit) and 16 (Right to make objections at audit) of the Audit Commission Act 1998 in October 2005. These representations were considered and amendments to those sections are proposed in the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill. These amendments, respectively, place restrictions on the rights of individuals to see personal information which is included within audited accounts, and withdraw objectors' rights to appear before the auditor to make objections, thereby limiting objections to those made in writing.

The Audit Commission made further representations to the Department to reform sections 15 and 16 of the 1998 Act in June 2006.

The representations in relation to section 15 asked for the section to be repealed, arguing that persons can already obtain information from auditors under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The representations in relation to section 16 asked for the section to be repealed, arguing that the right to make objections at audit is more efficiently met in other ways.

These proposals are not included in the Bill currently before Parliament. Assurances have been given to the Audit Commission that these proposals will be carefully considered at the next legislative opportunity.

Parliament Square

Sir John Butterfill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to ensure the use of land in Parliament Square as a campsite complies with the provisions of the Public Health Act 1936. [158646]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 17 October 2007]:* The Government are not intending to take any action to ensure Parliament Square as a campsite complies with section 269 of the Public Health Act 1936.

The Mayor of London and the Greater London authority (GLA) are responsible for the management of the central gardens of Parliament Square, including any byelaws under section 385 of the Greater London Authority Act 1999. The Mayor has recently made it publicly clear that

> "the GLA can no more allow the Square to become an unauthorised camp site than would be the case with any other park or public square in London. Parliament Square does not have the facilities to be a campsite and must be a sanitary and healthy environment for all".

Regional Development Agencies: Planning

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the date is for the transfer of regional planning responsibilities from the regional chambers to the regional development agencies. [157646]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to my oral statement on 17 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 161 announcing the publication of the "Review of sub-national economic development and regeneration.

The review sets out the Government's proposals for the future of regional institutions including regional assemblies. Regional assemblies will continue as regional planning bodies until new arrangements are introduced.

Renewable Energy: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the presence of ground source heat pumps would be taken into account in the valuation of a property for business rate purposes by the Valuation Office Agency. [157621]

John Healey: The plant and machinery involved in heating a building by means of a ground source heat pump will form part of the premises, and its contribution to the rental value of the premises will be reflected in the assessment of rateable value.

Sand: Lancashire

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what sand reserves there are in Lancashire. [160667]

Mr. Iain Wright: Lancashire county council's latest estimate for their permitted sand and gravel reserves is 4.1 million tonnes (2007 figure). This figure reflects those sites with current planning permission.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidelines are issued to Lancashire County Council on the amount of sand it is expected to produce each year. [160668]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Sand and Gravel Guideline (2001-16) produced by Communities and Local Government allocated 55 million tonnes for the North West. The North West regional assembly subsequently sub-regionally apportioned 8.2 million tonnes of this to Lancashire for this period. Sub-regional allocations are subject to periodic review.

Training: Expenditure

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what total public expenditure was on the *(a)* Pathways to Work and *(b)* Train to Gain programmes in 2006-07. [157464]

Caroline Flint: I have been asked to reply

Expenditure on Pathways to Work in 2006-07 was £93 million.

Detailed operational information on the Train to Gain service is not held centrally by the Department but is collected by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). I have asked Mark Haysom, the LSC chief executive, to write directly to the hon. Member with the available information. A copy of his reply will be placed in the Library.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Packaging

8. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent submissions he has received on the contribution of packaging to domestic waste levels. [160577]

Joan Ruddock: This topic is raised with me frequently through my Department's mailbag.

11 million tonnes of packaging waste was produced in the UK in 2006, of which 4.7 million tonnes ended up as household waste.

Flood Sirens: Norfolk

9. **Norman Lamb:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the future provision of flood sirens in Norfolk. [160578]

Jonathan Shaw: The Environment Agency provides flood warnings to the public by local radio and directly to individuals by telephone, mobile phone, text messages, emails, pagers and faxes through their Floodline Warnings Direct service. The agency considers these communication methods more effective than sirens.

Dairy Farming

10. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on profitability in the dairy farming sector. [160579]

Jonathan Shaw: Immediate prospects for the UK dairy sector are much better than they have been for some time. This is due to the current positive world market situation leading to increasing world demand though we recognise that input costs have increased for many.

Single Farm Payment

12. **Richard Younger-Ross:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the administration of the single farm payment. [160581]

Hilary Benn: The Rural Payments Agency is undertaking a wide range of actions aimed at improving its performance in administering the single payment scheme (SPS). Action to date enabled the agency to meet its formal target of making over 96.14 per cent. of 2006 SPS payments by 30 June 2007.

Foot and Mouth

13. **Mr. Gray:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many lorries were used to transport foot and mouth disease infected carcases to the incinerator during the most recent outbreak. [160582]

Hilary Benn: Since 3 August a total of 20 lorries were tasked to transport foot and mouth disease infected carcases to the Wessex incinerator in Somerset. A total of 40 journeys were made.

International Whaling Commission

14. **Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage countries which support conservation to join the International Whaling Commission; and if he will make a statement. [160583]

Jonathan Shaw: Embassies and missions abroad will shortly receive an updated version of the publication 'Protecting Whale—A Global Responsibility'.

It will come with instructions to lobby their host governments to encourage more anti-whaling countries to join the International Whaling Commission and support the maintenance of the moratorium on commercial whaling.

High Energy Light Bulbs

15. **Mr. McGovern:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to phase out the use and availability of high energy light bulbs. [160584]

Hilary Benn: We are working with retailers, manufacturers, energy suppliers and the Energy Saving Trust, to voluntarily phase out inefficient light bulbs by 2011 in the UK, ahead of our European partners.

Replacing bulbs with energy efficient alternatives will save up to 5 million tonnes of CO_2 from electricity generation per year by 2012 and will also help reduce householders' energy bills.

Flood Risk

16. **Philip Davies:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the insurance industry on flood risk. [160585]

Hilary Benn: Ministerial colleagues, officials and I are in regular contact with the insurance industry and the Association of British Insurers. We are working together with the mutual aim of ensuring continued widespread availability of flood insurance cover through the association's Statement of Principles.

EU Set-aside Scheme

17. **Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects of terminating the EU scheme for set aside. [160586]

Hilary Benn: We have already announced the actions we are taking, with the stakeholders concerned, in response to the EU decision to introduce a 0 per cent. set-aside rate for 2008, including careful monitoring to see what the environmental impact is. These will also help inform the options for retaining environmental benefits if set-aside is abolished as part of the CAP Healthcheck.

Climate Change Bill

18. **Mr. Yeo:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the progress of the Climate Change Bill. [160587]

Joan Ruddock: The Government's response to pre-legislative scrutiny and public consultation will be laid in Parliament very shortly ahead of the Bill's introduction in the forthcoming parliamentary session.

Flooding: Civil Installations

19. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on the protection of key civil installations from flooding. [160588]

Hilary Benn: The operators of critical infrastructure are responsible for contingency planning to ensure continuity of service. This is also being considered by the independent review of the summer flooding, being led by Sir Michael Pitt.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will

make a statement on discussions he has had with *(a)* IT consultants, *(b)* stakeholders and *(c)* the Rural Payments Agency on the delivery of partial single farm payments; [159544]

(2) whether he has had discussions on making part of the 2007 single farm payment before the 2007 payment window opens in December; and if he will make a statement; [159545]

(3) when he expects to be able to begin making 2007 single farm scheme payments; and if he will make a statement; [159547]

(4) what consideration he has given to the merits of making partial single farm scheme payments in December 2007; and if he will make a statement; [159548]

(5) what targets he has set for delivering 2007 single farm scheme payments; and if he will make a statement. [159549]

Jonathan Shaw: The Rural Payments Agency (RPA) has a formal target to pay 75 per cent. by value of valid 2007 single payment scheme claims by 31 March 2008 and 90 per cent. by 31 May 2008.

In the light of the difficulties experienced by farmers as a result of flooding, FMD and bluetongue, RPA was asked to investigate the possibility of making payments in advance of the payment window on 1 December and/or or making partial payments. The agency has also been asked to ensure it has the capacity to make partial payments should this be necessary.

However, having reviewed the options, my noble Friend, Lord Rooker, has confirmed to the RPA chief executive and industry stakeholders that the primary concern remains that the SPS system should be stabilised as soon as possible, so that the agency can deliver an improved, reliable service to the farming industry in future years. It is clear from RPA's advice that trying to make early payments now would undermine efforts to that end and introduce unacceptable disallowance risks, particularly as there is no EU legal basis for SPS 2007 partial payments. With this in mind, Ministers have agreed that RPA should instead work towards making more full payments to farmers earlier than last year but not set any arbitrary deadlines for the start of payments.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what his most recent estimate is of the amount of financial disallowance the European Commission will impose on the United Kingdom arising from the implementation of *(a)* the common agriculture policy and *(b)* the single farm payment scheme in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006 and (iii) 2007; and if he will make a statement; [159550]

(2) when he expects the European Commission to implement the disallowance relating to the implementation of common agricultural policy schemes and the single farm payment scheme; and if he will make a statement. [159546]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA has included provisions totalling £348 million in its resource accounts for 2006-07 in respect of potential financial corrections (disallowance) imposed by the European Commission for breaches of EC regulations in making payments for SPS 2005, SPS 2006 and other precursor common agricultural policy schemes. DEFRA also made an accrual for £63 million in respect of late payment penalties imposed in respect of SPS 2005. A further £7 million has been noted as a contingent liability. It is too early to make any formal assessment of the potential levels of disallowance in respect of SPS 2007.

Detailed discussions will take place with the Commission over an extended period, possibly two or three years, before a final figure is reached on any disallowances. The outcome will be disclosed in the Department's resource accounts in the year in which any financial corrections are imposed.

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department is funding into personal carbon allowances. [158501]

Mr. Woolas: The Government are considering the potential value of personal carbon trading (PCT). This is one of a number of possible long-term options being explored to help individuals be better informed about, and involved in, tackling climate change.

Following an initial scoping study produced for DEFRA by the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE), the Government are now carrying out a pre-feasibility study to assess whether PCT is a practical and viable policy option. We are working closely with other organisations conducting research in this area, and have designed the work programme to complement that being undertaken by researchers and academics such as the Tyndall Centre for Climate Change, the Environmental Change Institute (ECI) and the Royal Society for Arts (RSA).

Dangerous Dogs Act 1991

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government have taken to enforce the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991. [159873]

Jonathan Shaw: Enforcement of the Dangerous Dogs Act 1991 is the responsibility of the police and local authorities.

Following the tragic events in Merseyside earlier this year, my officials have been in close contact with the police service. The police are taking forward initiatives to ensure that the law is enforced more effectively. I welcome this and my officials will work closely with the Association of Chief Police Officers to facilitate better enforcement of the law.

DEFRA has already issued a guidance leaflet, "Types of dog prohibited in Great Britain", to assist enforcement agencies in identifying prohibited types of dog.

Dredging

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether assessments of dredging applications take into account possible risks to neighbouring sites, such as estuaries; [160811]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects on the Dee Estuary of dredging neighbouring sites. [160812]

Jonathan Shaw: The control of dredging operations depends upon the type of dredging involved.

Port and harbour authorities generally have provisions under their local powers (granted by means of Harbour Orders) within their jurisdiction to carry out or to license others to conduct dredging activities—primarily for the purpose of securing or maintaining a safe navigation depth. Other dredging operations which may cause or be likely to result in obstruction or danger to navigation require consent under the Coast Protection Act 1949 (part II). Any disposal or beneficial placement of dredged arisings at sea is subject to licence control under the Food and Environment Protection Act 1985 (part II). In certain cases, dredging activity may also require consent under the Land Drainage Act 1991.

Regulatory authorities, in dealing with such applications to dredge, have a duty to consider if the proposed project, because of its nature, size and location will have a significant environmental effect. If so, the application must be accompanied by an Environmental Statement and its determination will be subject to an environmental impact assessment—normally in accordance with the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations 2007. Environmental Statements are scoped to address all the aspects of the project which may be affected by the project, including, typically in the case of dredging:

i. impacts on the physical environment, including coastal and estuary morphology, hydrodynamics, sediment transport, water quality and the fate of disposed materials

ii. ecological effects, on fish and other flora and fauna arising, for example, from removal of sea bed species/habitat, the mobilisation of any contaminants, noise and changes to the physical environment

iii. risk to protected conservation sites and other sensitive sites

iv. impacts on birds—especially to those dependant on inter-tidal areas and disturbance to marine mammals

v. interference to the interests of others using the sea and their assets, including other commercial uses, leisure activities, fishing, subsea cables and marine archaeology

vi. the in-combination and cumulative effects of other works.

Many potential dredging areas also lie within or adjacent to the boundaries of designated European conservation sites. If the regulating authority consider that the dredging project is likely to have a significant impact on such a site, an appropriate assessment of the possible risk to the integrity of that site must be carried out in compliance with the Conservation (Natural Habitats &c) Regulations 1994.

The commercial exploitation of sand and gravel (aggregate dredging) is regulated under the Environmental Impact Assessment and Natural Habitats (Extraction of Minerals by Marine Dredging) Regulations 2007.

In 2001, applications were made by the port of Mostyn to conduct dredging operations within the inner and outer approach channels to the port. A consultation paper was issued under a public notice summarising the assessments conducted by the regulating authorities.

Authorisations were granted by the regulators in the summer of 2005 for a limited dredge over a period of two years. Each of the approvals granted were subject to conditions that included a rigorous programme of monitoring, the results of which are currently being assessed.

Fisheries: Quotas

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the value was of each fisheries quota swap to each party involved in each year since 1997. [160166]

Jonathan Shaw: This information is not readily available and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. In 2006, over 1,600 quota swaps occurred during the year, either internationally between the UK and other member states or internally between industry groups in the UK.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his estimate is of the value of the fish swapped in the cross year quota swap of 40 tonnes Area VII angler fish in 2007 to the South West Producer Organisation in exchange for 40 tonnes of Channel Plaice in 2006; and if he will make a statement. [160167]

Jonathan Shaw: No such estimate has been made. The cross-year swap was undertaken to ensure that the Channel plaice fishery would be kept open to 10 metre and under vessels throughout 2006. Some 90 tonnes of plaice in total was acquired for this purpose including the 40 tonnes gained via this cross-year swap. Given the pressure on a number of inshore fisheries in the south and west last year, the value of the transfer was in ensuring that local fishing communities across the south coast were able to continue to land quota species until the end of the year.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what cross-year fisheries quota swaps have taken place in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [160179]

Jonathan Shaw: Most cross-year swaps between the UK and other member states are not agreed until the end of the current year or the start of the following one. They are usually completed to settle small overfishes by the UK or other member states. These swaps can allow extra fishing opportunities to be found for UK fishermen including the inshore sector. Additional quota for several valuable species was obtained by this means for 2007, and we will look to do the same in 2007-08. At the moment, only one cross-year swap has been finalised which has gained Channel cod in 2007 for the inshore sector by which, as part of a package, eight tonnes of VII anglerfish in 2008 has been given up.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Compensation

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the statement of 8 October, *Official Report*, column 40, on foot and mouth/bluetongue, from what budget the £12.5 million assistance package will be drawn; and what proportion of this funding had been committed elsewhere previously. [158806]

Jonathan Shaw: All expenditure relating to the foot and mouth disease and bluetongue outbreaks in 2007, including the £12.5 million assistance package, is being funded from within DEFRA's budget. DEFRA will manage these costs, as for all other in-year pressures, within the overall budget allocated to it and will be reviewing priorities accordingly.

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) from which of his Department's budget headings the funding for the package of support measures for English farmers announced on 8 October will be provided; [159687]

(2) what proportion of the package of support measures for English farmers announced on 8 October will be provided from budgets used to provide services or programmes in England and Wales. [159688]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA will cover the cost of the package of support measures, as for all other in-year pressures, within the overall budget allocated to it and will be reviewing priorities accordingly.

Institute for Animal Health: Waste Disposal

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 450W, on the Institute for Animal Health: waste disposal, what discussions he had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills and *(b)* the former Secretary of State for Trade and Industry on the biosecurity of the Pirbright laboratory facility and its drainage system; and if he will make a statement. [159597]

Jonathan Shaw: Following the recent outbreaks of foot and mouth disease in Surrey, and the subsequent independent reviews by Professor Spratt and the Health and Safety Executive, discussions were held with the Minister for Science and Innovation in the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. These discussions focussed on the outcome of those reviews and the Government's response to them.

Laboratories: Licensing

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which laboratories have been licensed by his Department under the Specified Animal Pathogens Order 1998 with conditions that *(a)* require and *(b)* do not require routine inspections and risk assessments of drainage facilities; [159590]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 450W, on the Institute for Animal Health: waste disposal, if he will bring forward amendments to the Specified Animal Pathogens Order 1998 to provide for the drainage systems of laboratories to be routinely inspected; and if he will make a statement; [159593]

(3) on what dates Government research facilities handling animal pathogens for which his Department is responsible had their drainage systems *(a)* inspected and *(b)* risk assessed since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [159596]

Jonathan Shaw: The drainage systems of laboratories licensed by DEFRA to handle specified animal pathogens under the Specified Animal Pathogens Order (SAPO) 1998 are not routinely inspected, nor is this a condition of a SAPO licence.

However, following the recent outbreaks of foot and mouth disease (FMD), DEFRA and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have issued a safety alert to all SAPO Category 3 and 4 laboratories. The alert relates to issues arising from the independent reviews carried out by Professor Spratt and the HSE into potential breaches of biosecurity at the Pirbright site. It requires all such laboratories to satisfy themselves that their facilities and procedures address all the issues identified by Professor Spratt and the HSE. DEFRA and the HSE will also undertake a programme of inspection at all SAPO Category 3 and 4 laboratories. SAPO licences for those laboratories have also been amended to make clear their responsibilities towards biosecurity.

In addition, we have commissioned a review of the regulatory framework for animal pathogens under Sir Bill Callaghan. This review will include a consideration of the appropriate enforcement standards for animal pathogens, including issues such as drainage.

Pirbright Laboratory

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he received on biosecurity from *(a)* the Institute for Animal Health, *(b)* Merial, *(c)* the Biotechnology and Biological Research Council, *(d)* the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and its predecessor the Department for Trade and Industry and *(e)* other sources on the Pirbright laboratory facility prior to August 2007. [159598]

Jonathan Shaw: As lead regulator and licensor of the Institute for Animal Health and Merial under the Specified Animal Pathogens Order (SAPO) 1998, DEFRA held frequent discussions with representatives from those facilities about biosecurity prior to the outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Surrey. I am not aware of any representations specifically relating to biosecurity at the Pirbright facility from the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, the Department for Trade and Industry or other sources during this period.

Pirbright Laboratory: Sewers

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what risk assessments have been carried out at the Pirbright laboratory facility on the drainage system; and if he will make a statement. [159595]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA is not aware of any assessments that were carried out on the drainage system at the Pirbright facility prior to the investigation by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) into potential biosecurity breaches at the Pirbright site. Until then, there was no indication that there was a risk of effluent escaping from the drainage system, although it was recognised that the system was old and some concerns were brought to DEFRA's attention over the possibility of water leaking into the drains via the manhole covers.

On 17 August 2007, the HSE informed DEFRA Ministers that leaks could have occurred from the system and DEFRA immediately contacted the Institute for Animal Health (IAH). That afternoon, IAH put into effect a plan controlling access and strengthening biosecurity measures around the movement of people and vehicles. Work also began immediately on restoring the integrity of the drains and manholes concerned. Further inspections of the site have shown that the work had been completed quickly and to a high standard.

The report from the HSE investigation contains a detailed inspection of the drainage system, and is available from the DEFRA website and the Libraries of the House.

Seas and Oceans: Legislation

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to publish the Marine Bill; and if he will make a statement. [160108]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government's draft legislative programme states that we are considering publishing a draft Marine Bill in the next Session of Parliament—we are working towards doing this in early 2008. Publishing the Marine Bill in draft will allow us to get the legislation right and lead to a better Bill.

Wetlands: Conservation

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on Government policy on the protection of marshes, wetlands and mud and salt flats in and around the Thames estuary and other major rivers. [160569]

Joan Ruddock: The Government are firmly committed to the protection of these habitats, both for the important biodiversity they support and the wider benefits they bring, such as natural flood defences, mitigation of climate change and public recreation. For these reasons, most of our major river estuaries have been designated as protected areas, including parts of the Thames, and development may only be permitted in exceptional circumstances.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Basic Pensions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 12 September, *Official Report*, column 2101W, on basic pensions, if he will estimate how many women aged *(a)* 60, *(b)* 61, *(c)* 62, *(d)* 63, *(e)* 64, *(f)* 65, *(g)* 66, *(h)* 67, *(i)* 68 and *(j)* 69 years are receiving pensions based on a contribution record of between 61 and 98 per cent. [156267]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* The following table shows those women who are in receipt of a basic state pension of between 61 per cent. and 98 per cent. at September 2006 based on their own national insurance record.

Age	*Number of females*
60	120,400
61	115,500
62	117,200
63	103,700
64	89,500
65	74,600
66	68,600
67	63,100
68	57,300
69	49,200

Notes:
1. Data are taken from a five per cent. extract of the Pension Service computer system, therefore figures are subject to a degree of sampling variation. They are also adjusted to be consistent with the overall caseload from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
3. Figures include cases residing abroad where the rate of state pension would not be uprated each year.
4. Where a women is entitled to a pension based on a combination of her own and her husband's record only the element from her own record has been used in the compilation of the table, as was the case with the answer of 12 September, *Official Report*, column 2101W
5. Full basic state pension at September 2006 was £84.25.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate

Child Support Agency Annual Report 2006-07

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the reasons are for the time taken to produce the Child Support Agency's Annual Report for 2007; and if he will make a statement; [160369]

(2) when the Child Support Agency Annual Report 2007 will be published. [160370]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 25 October 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the reasons are for the time taken to produce the Child Support Agency's Annual Report for 2007; and if he will make a statement. [160369]

and

You also asked when the Child Support Agency Annual Report 2007 will be published. [160370]

National Audit Office (NAO) decided before summer recess that they needed to undertake further work on the Child Support Agency's Client Funds Account. This has resulted in a delay in these accounts being finalised. As a result, the Agency was not in a position to lay the Annual Report and Accounts for 2006/07 in the House of Commons, or publish them before recess as planned.

The Agency's Administration Account was finalised with an unqualified audit opinion before recess. This ensured that the Department's resource accounts could be finalised and published.

The Agency has continued to work with NAO over the summer. They have now concluded their work, which has allowed the Agency to complete the Client Funds Account. The NAO have prepared a draft report for inclusion in the Agency's Annual Report which is currently under consideration. Once the

NAO Report has been finalised the Agency will arrange for the Annual Report and Accounts for 2006/07 to be laid in the House of Commons and for their subsequent publication. I am afraid I am unable to give a definitive date for publication at this stage.

The Office for National Statistics published the Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS) on the 24th October 2007. It contains the most up date information on the Agency's Performance. I have included details of the internet link below for ease of reference.

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/mediacentre/pressreleases/2007/oct/hse044-241007.pdf

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Child Support Agency: ICT

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the progress of Child Support Agency IT upgrade initiatives. [160371]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 25 October 2007:

In reply to your Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what recent assessment he has made of the progress of Child Support Agency IT upgrade initiatives. [160371]

The Agency introduced a three year Operational Improvement Plan in 2006; in the first year concentrating on improving customer service and building capacity and capability within the organisation and in the second year focusing on resolving the remaining IT difficulties and increasing compliance and enforcement. Although a great deal of work has already been carried out to improve the stability of the new computer system and operational performance has improved, the Agency plans to make a major IT upgrade within the second year of the OIP, which ends in March 2008.

This upgrade will primarily provide system support for the Agency's new operating model, which introduced client lifecycle segmentation, enabling the Agency to better target its resources to make more difference for more children. The Agency has also developed a new training programme, which will better support its people to make the best use of the improving IT system. This programme will ensure that training can be delivered where and when it is required.

In the final year of the Operational Improvement Plan the Agency aims to reap the benefits of the restructuring, adding incremental system functionality, consolidating the improvements and aiming to collect more than 1bn in maintenance for children.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departments: Policy

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what policy changes his Department has implemented since 27 June 2007. [159290]

Caroline Flint: The Department's objectives to eradicate child poverty, promote employment opportunity for all, and ensure pensioners have a secure retirement are some of the most challenging social ambitions ever set by Government. This Department is constantly reviewing its policies to ensure that we meet these challenges, and we keep Parliament fully informed of any changes.

Since 27 June, we have made a number of announcements. For example, on 18 July we published In work—better off which contains the Government's proposals on the next steps towards its aim of full employment. This was accompanied by a statement in the House. On 26 July, the Pensions Act 2007 received Royal Assent. Reforms in the Act will start to come into effect from 2010 onwards and will make state pensions simpler, fairer and more generous.

Employment: Finance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the *(a)* average cost of getting a person back into work in each year since 1997 and *(b)* the average savings to the Government for each individual that has moved off benefits and into work, including tax uplift and the cost of tax credits and other work-related benefits. [159619]

Caroline Flint: Information is not available on the average cost of getting a person back into work in each year since 1997.

Information on the average savings to the Government for each individual that has returned off benefits and into work is shown in the following table.

Estimates of the average fiscal saving of moving benefit claimants into employment in 2006-07

	Amount (£)
Jobseeker's allowance claimant	7,103
Incapacity benefit claimant	7,642
Income support (lone parent) claimant	4,386

Note:
These estimates rely on a number of assumptions and are intended to be indicative rather than definitive.

European Social Charter

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the UK's *(a)* compliance with and *(b)* reporting to the European Committee of Social Rights on the European Social Charter. [161018]

Mr. Plaskitt: The United Kingdom ratified the European Social Charter on 11 July 1962. The Government have accepted 60 of the charter's 72 paragraphs and believes that it is compliant with all of those accepted paragraphs. The UK complies with its reporting obligations in regard to the charter and between 1965 and 2006 submitted a total of 26 reports on its application. The United Kingdom's next report, which relates to the theme of employment, training and equal opportunities, will be submitted by the end of this year in line with the reporting timetable.

Financial Assistance Scheme: Compensation

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Financial Assistance Scheme has paid out in compensation to qualifying members. [159626]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As at 12 October 2007 the Financial Assistance Scheme has paid out a total of £9,478,123 (gross).

Fuel Poverty

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to tackle long-term fuel poverty. [160362]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department for Work and Pensions is working closely with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, the energy industry, and the voluntary sector to tackle fuel poverty in the UK. Warm Front grants, benefit entitlement checks and the reduction of VAT on fuel has helped many customers not only have an increase in benefit, but also more energy efficient homes which result in lower fuel bills.

The Department is responsible for the winter fuel payment which pays most households £200 where someone is over 60, and £300 if the household includes someone aged 80 or over. In addition, Pension credit is playing a major roll in delivering substantial increases in income to pensioners with only modest savings or occupational pensions. The Pension Service Local Service carry out a benefit check as part of their interviews and refer customers to Warm Front if appropriate.

The Department is also assisting in the reduction in fuel poverty through its work in tackling child poverty. By promoting the Government aim to provide employment opportunities for all, with work for those that can and support for those who cannot, Jobcentre Plus has assisted in the significant reduction of children in low-income households.

Industrial Health and Safety: Formaldehyde

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Government has undertaken an impact assessment on the recommendations of the European Commission's Scientific Committee on Occupational Exposure Limits to reduce occupational exposure limit values for formaldehyde to 0.2 ppm for 8-hour time weighted average and to 0.4 ppm for short-term exposure limits (up to 15 minutes). [160222]

Mrs. McGuire: The European Commission's Scientific Committee on Occupational Exposure Limits (SCOEL) published its final recommendation on occupational exposure limits for formaldehyde in August 2007. The recommendation is currently being considered by the European Commission (Directorate General Employment and Social Affairs) and in the tripartite Working Party on Chemicals in the Workplace.

It has not yet been agreed whether or not formaldehyde will be included in the annex to a third indicative occupational exposure limit values (IOELV) directive or at what level an IOELV for formaldehyde will be set. Once a formal proposal is put forward, the Health and Safety Executive will carry out an impact assessment to estimate the effect on industry of workplace exposure limits set at these levels.

Jobcentre Plus

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 10 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 2368-9W, on Jobcentre Plus, whether an investigation was conducted on the performance of Jobcentre Plus districts against their points profile; and if he will make a statement. [159830]

Caroline Flint: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the right hon. Gentleman with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie, dated 25 October 2007:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question about whether an investigation was conducted into the performance of Jobcentre Plus districts against their Job Outcome Target (JOT) profiles. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus maintains a close watch on all of its targets and is acutely aware of the importance of JOT as a measure of its performance in helping customers move into work. Jobcentre Plus has made significant efforts to improve its understanding of how to manage JOT and has taken a number of steps to address the shortfall in performance both at national and district levels. It may be helpful if I explain some of these initiatives.

Together with DWP, Jobcentre Plus developed Key Management Indicators (KMIs) to help ensure that staff deliver required work focused interviews for our key customer groups at the right time. These KMIs were subsequently reviewed and, for 2007-08, developed into a new Interventions Delivery Target (IDT) to give an even sharper focus to the timely delivery of work-focused support. In addition, an adviser achievement tool was developed to help ensure interventions were the right quality and properly targeted, with appropriate job submissions.

Recent research published on the national evaluation of JOT[1] concluded that, JOT is largely working as intended. In particular, JOT was seen as supporting the trend of encouraging the use of self help channels among customers who were closer to the labour market, and therefore enabling resources to be concentrated more intensively on providing assistance to 'harder to help' groups. JOT was also viewed as influencing more efficient working practices (for example through more effective use of the Adviser Discretionary Fund), an increased willingness of staff to refer customers to provision and improved team working. This research did not specifically look at performance against JOT profiles.

Other performance management actions include establishing a standing JOT Key Performance Group, chaired by a senior operational Director, to review and direct performance management activities. More recently, steps are being taken to develop Local Employment Partnerships (LEPs), expand the use of work trials, and further up-skill advisers and managers in managing JOT performance.

[1] JOT National Evaluation , DWP Research Report 462, October 2007

National Insurance: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers were issued to non-UK citizens resident in Ribble Valley in each of the last five years. [161384]

Mr. Plaskitt: Information is not available for parliamentary constituencies prior to April 2005 and for local authorities prior to April 2004. The available information is in the following table.

National insurance number registrations in respect of non-UK nationals in Ribble Valley parliamentary constituency and Ribble Valley local authority

Year of registration	*Ribble Valley constituency*	*Ribble Valley local authority*
2004-05	—	80
2005-06	280	140
2006-07	360	210

Notes:
1. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Numbers are based on 100 per cent data from the National Insurance Recording System (NIRS).
4. Parliamentary constituency and local authority is assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant postcode directory.
5. Parliamentary constituency and local authority counts are based on the most recently recorded address of the National Insurance number recipient.

Source:
100 per cent sample at 25 June 2005, 17 June 2006 and 14 May 2007 from the National Insurance Recording System (NIRS).

New Deal for Young People: Berkshire

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of participants in the new deal for young people in *(a)* Reading, *(b)* Wokingham and *(c)* Berkshire were repeat participants in the last year for which figures are available. [159509]

Caroline Flint: New deal for young people has helped 1,140 people in the Reading district authority area, 240 people in the Wokingham district authority area and 3,650 people in the county of Berkshire into work since it started in January 1998.

In the period March 2006 to February 2007[1] 31 per cent. of those on the programme in the Reading district authority area, 27 per cent. of those on the programme in the Wokingham district authority area and 27 per cent. of those on the programme in the county of Berkshire[2] were repeat participants.

[1] Latest available data is to February 2007

[2] The county of Berkshire consists of the unitary authorities of West Berkshire, Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham, Bracknell Forest, Reading, and Slough.

Note:
Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of participants in the new deal for young people in *(a)* Reading, *(b)* Wokingham and *(c)* Berkshire returned to receiving jobseeker's allowance (i) immediately and (ii) within one year after leaving the new deal in (A) 2006 and (B) 2004. [159511]

Caroline Flint: The available information is in the following table.

Percentage of new deal for young people (NDYP) participants returning to receive jobseeker's allowance (JSA) after leaving new deal

	2004			*2006*		
	Reading	*Wokingham*	*Berkshire*	*Reading*	*Wokingham*	*Berkshire*
Immediately	9	n/a	11	11	14	14
Within one year	33	29	32	n/a	n/a	n/a

Notes:
1. The county of Berkshire consists of the unitary authorities of West Berkshire, Windsor and Maidenhead, Wokingham, Bracknell Forest, Reading, and Slough.
2. The number of people who left NDYP to return immediately to JSA in Wokingham in 2004 is too low to calculate a percentage.
3. Complete data are not yet available for the percentage of participants in 2006 who returned to JSA after leaving new deal to be calculated as JSA data are only available to February 2007.
4. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
5. All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.

Source:
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions.

New Deal for Young People: Forest of Dean

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of participants in the New Deal for Young People in the Forest of Dean district were repeat participants in the last year for which figures are available. [158046]

Caroline Flint: New Deal for Young People has helped 710 people into work in the Forest of Dean District since it started in January 1998. In the period March 2006 to February 2007[1] 36 per cent. of those on the programme in the Forest of Dean District were repeat participants.

[1] Latest available data.

New Deal for Young People: Jobseekers Allowance

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of participants in the new deal for young people in *(a)* Pembrokeshire, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* the UK returned to receive jobseeker's allowance (i) immediately and (ii) within one year in (A) 2006 and (B) 2004. [158478]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 16 October 2007]*: The available information is in the following table.

Complete data are not yet available to allow the percentage of leavers in 2006 who return to JSA within one year to be calculated as the latest JSA data are available only to February 2007.

Percentage of new deal for young people participants returning to receive JSA

	2004			*2006*		
	GB	*Wales*	*Pembrokeshire*	*GB*	*Wales*	*Pembrokeshire*
Immediately returning to JSA	12	13	17	17	15	13

Percentage of new deal for young people participants returning to receive JSA

	2004			2006		
	GB	*Wales*	*Pembrokeshire*	*GB*	*Wales*	*Pembrokeshire*
Returning to JSA within one year	42	42	43	n/a	n/a	n/a

Notes:
1. All figures have been rounded to the nearest ten.
2. All percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.
3. Latest available data are to the end of February 2007.
4. Data are available for GB only
5. Data on participants returning to JSA within one year are not available for 2006 as benefit data are only available up to February 2007 and this would not allow 12 months to have passed for all leavers.

Source:
Information Directorate, Department for Work and Pensions, 2007

New Deal for Young People: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of participants in the New Deal for Young People in Milton Keynes unitary authority were repeat participants in the last year for which figures are available. [159206]

Caroline Flint: New Deal for Young People has helped 1,630 people into work in the Milton Keynes local authority area since it started in January 1998. In the period March 2006 to February 2007[1] 36 per cent. of those on the programme in the Milton Keynes local authority area were repeat participants.

[1] Latest available data.

Occupational Pensions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of the working age population that belonged to an employer-sponsored defined benefit pension scheme in each year since 1997. [159618]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is presented in the following table.

An estimate of the percentage of the working-age population who belong to an employer-sponsored defined benefit pension scheme by year

	Number in defined benefit scheme[1] (million)	*Working age population[2,3]*	*Percentage of working age population in a defined benefit scheme*
1991	9.7	35,196,728	28
1995	9.2	35,365,374	26
2000	9.0	36,138,280	25
2004	8.6	37,083,156	23
2006	8.5	37,706,563	23

[1] Pension scheme membership figures are estimates and are taken from the Occupational Pension Scheme Survey. Data for years 1991, 1995, 2000 and 2004 were produced by the Government Actuary's Department (GAD). Data for 2006 were produced by the Office for National Statistics. 2006 is the latest year published. The coverage of the survey is the UK.
[2] Population figures are estimates and are taken from Table 1 of the mid-year population estimates and were produced by the Office for National Statistics. 2006 is the latest year published.
[3] The working age population is defined as males aged 16 to 64 and females aged 16 to 59.

Note:
To be eligible for membership of an occupational pension scheme, including defined benefit schemes, a person must be an employee working for an employer offering such a scheme.

Pension Credit

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people stopped claiming pension credit in each of the last three years, broken down by reason for non-continuance; [157183]

(2) how many people stopped claiming pension credit in each of the last three years, broken down by income decile. [157184]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We do not have the detailed information in the form requested but the number of pension credit claims that were closed 2004 to 2006 for various reasons including death were as follows:

	Number of claims closed
2004	227,640
2005	261,640
2006	255,290

Notes:
1. The number of claims are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. A pension credit claim can be made for an individual only or on behalf of a household.
3. Yearly totals cover the period from 1 December to 30 November because they are derived from summing quarterly figures.

Source:
DWP Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent data

Pension Service: Correspondence

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many letters sent by the Pensions Service were misdirected in each of the last 10 years. [157198]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not available in the format requested.

The Pension Service makes every effort to issue letters to customers at their last verified address. There have been a few isolated incidents of mistakes, but where letters do go to an incorrect address this is usually for a variety of other reasons, such as the customer moving and inadvertently omitting to let the Pensions Service know of their change of address.

Pension Service: Pensions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many members of the Pensions Service Board are entitled to a final salary pension. [157168]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: At the present time there are 10 members of the Pension Service Board of whom eight are entitled to a final salary pension. The two non-executive members are not currently in the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Pensions Service spent on its own pension scheme in each of the last five years. [157173]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The available information is in the table.

The Pension Service as an employing unit within the Department for Work and Pensions has contributed towards funding of the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme as follows:

	Amount (£)
2004-05	29,520,158.51
2005-06	42,706,687.51
2006-07	44,517,581.07

Pensions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his answer of 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 769W, on pensions, how many of the estimated number of people with pension losses are *(a)* at or above age 65 years and *(b)* at or above their scheme retirement age. [159614]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The answer given by the former Minister of State my right hon. Friend the Member for Stalybridge and Hyde (James Purnell) on 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 769W, remains the best available estimate.

We expect that updated estimates will be available in November.

Pensions: Complaints

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints about handling of claims for the state pension the Pensions Service received in each of the last five years. [157177]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The available information is in the following table.

Complaints to the Pension Service are not categorised into benefit areas. The information given is for all complaints received in the last five years.

April to March	*Total number of complaints received by the Pension Service*
2002-03	12,140
2003-04	38,957
2004-05	25,420
2005-06	22,179
2006-07	16,986

During 2003-04 the Pension Service embarked upon a series of workshops to emphasise the importance of recording and analysing feedback. This resulted in a significant rise in the feedback collected.

Pensions: Databases

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many large databases there are at the National Pensions Centre; what each one is used for; and what data are held in each one. [157189]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Pension Service, including the National Pensions Centre, has access to four primary systems. Each system has an associated database which holds data appropriate to the processing needs of the business.

The systems/databases are:

(a) Pension Strategy Computer System (PSCS) which is used for processing state pension and contains data appropriate to the following:

(i) Income Support Computer System (ISCS) which is used for processing pension credit;

(ii) Customer Information System (CIS) which holds a central index of personal details; and

(iii) National Insurance Recording System (NIRS2) which holds national insurance contribution history.

Pensions: Personal Savings

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who are saving insufficient funds for retirement. [159612]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Estimates published in the White Paper: Security in retirement: towards a new pensions system, suggest that approximately 7 million people are not saving enough to give them retirement incomes they are likely to consider adequate.

Estimates of the current level of under saving for retirement are difficult to construct due to the difficulties identifying appropriate saving targets; uncertainties about which kinds of wealth and assets to take into account; difficulties projecting individuals' future saving and working patterns, particularly around choice of retirement age; and reliance on a range of other uncertain assumptions, including the impact of future macro-economic developments. Consequently such estimates should be treated cautiously.

Poverty

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the statistical measurement of living in poverty is in the UK. [160054]

Caroline Flint: Poverty is a complex and multidimensional issue and, as such, there are many possible measures of poverty. To reflect this, there are a wide range of indicators included in opportunity for all.

While income alone does not provide a wide enough measure of poverty, it is generally accepted that low income is central to any poverty measurement. The most common measure of low income used to capture poverty is individuals living in households with an income below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income, adjusted to take account of family size and composition.

The public service agreement (PSA) to halve child poverty includes three indicators of child poverty. These are relative low income (below 60 per cent. contemporary median household income), absolute low income (below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income uprated in line with prices), and combined low income and material deprivation.

The new PSA 'Tackle poverty and promote greater independence in later life' includes three indicators related to low income for pensioners. These are relative low income (below 60 per cent. contemporary median household income), relative low income (below 50 per cent. contemporary median household income), and absolute low income (below 60 per cent. of 1998-99 median income uprated in line with prices).

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what special training is received by doctors contracted by his Department to carry out personal capability assessments in severe and enduring mental health problems. [160762]

Mrs. McGuire: The doctors who are contracted by Atos Healthcare to carry out personal capability assessments on behalf of this Department receive comprehensive benefit-specific training across the full range of conditions and disabilities, including mental health conditions, before they can carry out medical examinations, assessments or give advice regarding benefit claims.

The training enables them to carry out personal capability assessments whatever the customer's condition or disability, as it concentrates on gathering and evaluating information and using it to determine and explain the functional effects of a person's condition so that a decision maker can use that information to decide entitlement to benefit. Doctors are only approved to carry out this work once they have demonstrated full competence, and the quality of their work will continue to be monitored to maintain high standards. Specific training modules are delivered that cover mental health problems and doctors are provided with evidence-based medicine guidance modules in specific mental health conditions and on learning disabilities.

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many personal capability assessments were carried out by Atos Healthcare for his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and how many of these were reviewing *(a)* mental health, *(b)* physical health and *(c)* both mental and physical health. [160763]

Mrs. McGuire: In the 12 months to September 2007, Atos Healthcare undertook 528,380 personal capability assessments. Information about the number of assessments that were reviewing mental or physical health is not available as it is not possible to break the figure down by incapacity.

Social Security Benefits: Unemployment

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people had their benefits reduced as a consequence of not taking a reasonable job offer in each of the last 10 years. [159620]

Mr. Plaskitt: The available information is in the following table.

	Number of customers sanctioned
2000-01	23,040
2001-02	32,250
2002-03	36,002
2003-04	24,610
2004-05	19,580
2005-06	12,270
2006-07	6,370

Note:
Information prior to 2000 is not available.
Source:
DWP: JSA Sanctions and Disallowance Decisions Statistics Database

During the period in question, the decline in decisions to apply sanctions for refusing employment coincides with an increase in decisions to apply sanctions to those who have either not done enough to find work or who are unreasonably restricting their availability for work.

State Retirement Pensions: Overseas Residence

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many International Pension Centre clients *(a)* live permanently abroad and *(b)* require documents to be translated into a language other than English. [157843]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is as follows.

(a) The International Pension Service serves some 1.071 million people who receive state pension and 37.7 thousand people who receive working age benefits who are resident abroad.

(b) The information requested is not available. A small number of customers request information to be provided in a language other than English; that is arranged on a case-by-case basis and central records are not maintained.

Unemployed: Elderly

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many men aged between 60 and 65 years are required to sign on at job centres but are not receiving any benefits. [159682]

Caroline Flint: Men between age 60 and 65 may choose to sign on in order to seek work but no one is required to do so.

Winter Fuel Payments: Hemsworth

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in Hemsworth constituency claimed the winter fuel allowance in each year since its introduction. [156809]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information relating to winter fuel payments for the winters of 1997-98 and 1998-99 is not available. The information from winter 1999-2000 is in the following table.

Hemsworth constituency

	Payments made
1999-2000	15,130
2000-01	17,360
2001-02	17,410
2002-03	17,780
2003-04	18,130
2004-05	18,160
2005-06	18,330
2006-07	18,710

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory. *Source:* Information directorate 100 per cent data

HEALTH

Acute Beds

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were treated in each acute hospital in England in each year since 1997. [159729]

Mr. Bradshaw: Data are not collected in the format requested on a total count of patients but a count of finished in-year admissions which is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider.

A copy of the data that is available has been placed in the Library.

Airedale NHS Trust: Cancer

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the proposed changes to oncology provision at Airedale NHS Trust; and if he will make a statement. [159987]

Ann Keen: Any decision on changes to the provision of cancer care at Airedale NHS Trust will be taken by the trust and its partner organisations in the Yorkshire Cancer Network, which co-ordinates services in the area and ensures that they appropriately meet the needs of the region. The trust has sought to engage with cancer patients and other stakeholders and to take account of their views and concerns throughout the process.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many individuals aged 11 to 18 years resident in the Peterborough constituency were treated for alcohol-related health problems in each year since 1997. [160212]

Dawn Primarolo: Information is not available by constituency. However, the table following shows the number of finished admission episodes at the former Peterborough Hospital NHS Trust covering the period 1997-98 to 2003-04 and for the Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust for the period 2004-05 and 2005-06, where there was a primary diagnosis of alcohol related disease for those aged between 11 to 18 at admission for the period 1997-98 to 2005-06.

	Finished admission episodes
1997-98	19
1998-99	14
1999-00	15
2000-01	22
2001-02	19
2002-03	14
2003-04	29
2004-05	23
2005-06	10

Notes:
1. Finished admission episodes—A finished admission episode is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. Diagnosis (Primary Diagnosis)—The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the HES data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
3. Data Quality—HES are compiled from data sent by over 300 national health service trusts and primary care trusts in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), Information Centre for health and social care.

Peterborough has a rate of 58.35 for persons admitted to hospital due to alcohol specific conditions (under 18s) crude rate per 100,000, 2003-04 to 2005-06. Persons admitted to hospital due to alcoholic specific conditions (under 18s), North West Public Health Observatory from HES and Office for national Statistics mid-year population estimates). Does not include attendance at A and E (not available nationally).

This ranks Peterborough as 180 against all other local authorities in England and is higher than the regional average of 40.58.

The Government are determined to prevent harm to those under 18 years of age and this is a priority group in Safe.Sensible.Social the national alcohol strategy June 2007. To help young people and their parents make informed decisions about drinking, the Government will provide authoritative, accessible guidance about what is and what is not safe and sensible in the light of the latest available evidence from the UK and abroad. It will ensure that the laws and licensing powers protect young people and continue to prioritise reductions in the test purchase failure rate for under age sales of alcohol.

Ambulance Services: Obesity

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many ambulance services have replaced their fleet of ambulances in order to deal with obese people. [160649]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally.

It is for each NHS ambulance trust to decide how best to respond to each patient based on individual circumstance and clinical need. The fleet mix will vary across the country depending on operational and geographical requirements, and each ambulance service should plan to provide appropriate resources.

Baby Care Units: Nurses

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses were in training for qualifications in neonatal specialty in each year from 2002 to 2006; and if he will make a statement. [159203]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

We are increasing the numbers of qualified nurses in neonatal care as the number of qualified paediatric nurses increased by 3,293 or 21.5 per cent. between 1997 and September 2006.

Benzodiazepines: Misuse

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people who misuse benzodiazepines presented themselves for treatment to the statutory drug treatment services in each year since 2000. [160161]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of people in treatment for benzodiazepine addiction since 2004-05, in the years we have the information available, is shown in the following table. The data in the table from the national drug treatment monitoring system show benzodiazepines as the main drug of use, and the secondary drug of use.

Benzodiazepine users

	Main drug	*Number Second drug*
2004-05	2,343	7,338
2005-06	2,666	9,337
2006-07	2,548	10,245

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision is made by the statutory drug treatment services for the treatment of clients whose primary problem is misuse of benzodiazepines. [160162]

Dawn Primarolo: In all areas of the country, those with an addiction to any drug should have access to a range of services in both the primary and secondary care settings to meet their needs. Treatment services are not categorised by a specific drug of dependence.

To support local areas in doing this the Government makes available substantial funding in the form of the pooled drug treatment budget to drug action teams, who are best placed to commission services to meet the needs of the local population.

Chlamydia: Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals Trust

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many diagnoses of chlamydia there were in the Peterborough and Stamford hospitals trust area in each year since 1997. [160210]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on diagnoses of chlamydia in genitourinary clinics (GUM) is only available by strategic health authority (SHA). The total number of chlamydia infections diagnosed in the East of England SHA since 1997 to 2006, the latest date for which figures are available, which includes Peterborough and Stamford hospital trust is given in the following table.

	Number of infections
1997	2944
1998	3620
1999	4220
2000	4894
2001	5531
2002	6470
2003	7178
2004	8031
2005	8369
2006	8300

Notes:
1. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as general practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
2. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed. For example, individuals may be diagnosed with several co-infections and each diagnosis will be counted separately.
3. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.

Source:
Health Protection Agency, KC60 returns

In addition to diagnoses made in GUM clinics, the National Chlamydia Screening programme (NCSP) has been running since 2003. The number of people diagnosed with chlamydia within the programme in the East of England SHA are shown in the following table.

	Number
2003-04	79
2004-05	264
2005-06	562
2006-07	1343

Source:
NCSP

Chlamydia: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his most recent estimate is of the number of community pharmacies which offer chlamydia screening; [160270]

(2) if he will make a statement on the pharmacy chlamydia screening pathfinder project; when the project started; when he expects the findings of the project to be published; and what plans he has to introduce pharmacy screening of chlamydia on a national basis. [160271]

Dawn Primarolo: Screening for chlamydia in pharmacies is already happening nationally. In 2006-07, the national chlamydia screening programme (NCSP) received data from 90 pharmacies in England. The NCSP currently have 286 pharmacies who have registered to provide screening.

To support commissioners, the Department is working with the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee and the national health service to develop a national template for a chlamydia screening local enhanced service through the NHS community pharmacy contractual framework.

The Boots chlamydia screening pathfinder started in November 2005 and covers over 200 London stores. It is being independently evaluated by TNS Healthcare. Copies of the Chlamydia Screening Evaluation—Interim Report Wave One November 2005 to April 2006 and Chlamydia Screening Evaluation—Interim Report Wave 2 November 2005 to October 2006 reports have been placed in the Library. The third and final report will be published later in the year.

Dental Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of dental practices in England he estimates offer NHS dental services to at least two-thirds of their patients. [160198]

Ann Keen: This information is not available. Dentists who hold national health service contracts are only required to report treatment delivered within that contract to the Department. Information is not collected on the level of private treatment, if any, also delivered.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2205W, on dental services (1) whether his Department reviews the local needs assessment of primary care trusts; [160442]

(2) what recent assessment his Department has made of the provision of NHS dentistry against assessed need. [160443]

Ann Keen: Primary care trusts are responsible for providing or commissioning primary dental care services to reflect local needs. This is a local rather than centrally managed process. The Department has issued guidance to the local national health service on developing local dental commissioning plans. Additional support is available through the national Primary Care Contracting Team.

Dental Services: Eastern Region

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of dentists in each county in the East of England are taking on new NHS patients. [159225]

Ann Keen: Data on dentists accepting new national health service patients are not collected centrally.

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of dentists in each county in the East of England undertake NHS work. [159226]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. However, The Information Centre for Health and Social Care only holds information for dentists that derive at least part of their income from a national health service primary care trust (PCT) contract to provide NHS dental treatment.

The numbers of NHS dentists at PCT and strategic health authority (SHA) level as at 30 June, 30 September, 31 December 2006 and 31 March 2007 are available in Table E1 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006/07 report".

This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. This report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

The inclusion of dentists on trust led contracts in the data collection following the 2006 reforms means that data collected since April 2006 cannot be directly compared with data collected under the previous system.

Note that the numbers quoted are headcounts and do not differentiate between full and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

The report has been published by The Information Centre for Health and Social Care.

Departments: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many bottles of champagne his Department has purchased in the last 12 months. [159929]

Dawn Primarolo: The financial records of the departments expenditure in the last 12 months does not indicate any purchases of champagne being made.

Departments: Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department follows on the maximum time taken to respond to hon. Members' correspondence; and what performance against that target was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [158594]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury on 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 23-24W.

Departments: Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were employed by his Department on 1 January in each of the last five years; and how many of these staff were *(a)* permanent employees, *(b)* temporary staff and *(c)* contractors. [158318]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is taken from a variety of sources, although it is not possible to provide it for the reference date of 1 January. For 2007, it is published by the Office for National Statistics in Table 6 of the Quarterly Public Sector Employment First Release for the latest year (31 March 2007), these are available at:

www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/pse0607.pdf

This is the key official source of work force numbers for the civil service and provides a breakdown of permanent and temporary/casual employees by Department.

For earlier years the source is Table A of the Civil Service Statistics publication, available at:

2006 (30 September)

www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422

2005 (1 April)

www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/reports/2005/tables_and_charts/index.asp

2004 (1 April)

www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/reports/2004/tables_and_charts/index.asp

2003 (1 April)

www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/reports/2003/tables_and_charts/index.asp

For 2005 and 2006 the Civil Service Statistics were not published with the permanent and temporary/casual breakdown—this additional information is set out in the following tables:

Civil service employment at 1 April 2005

	Headcount permanent	*Headcount temporary/casual*	*Headcount total*	*Full-time equivalent (FTE) permanent*	*FTE temporary/casual*	*FTE total*
Department of Health (excluding agencies)	2,390	80	2,470	2,300	80	2,380
Medical and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency	780	40	810	750	40	780
Purchasing and Supplies Agency	300	10	320	290	10	310

Civil service employment at 30 September 2006

	Headcount permanent	*Headcount temporary/casual*	*Headcount total*	*FTE permanent*	*FTE temporary/casual*	*FTE total*
Department of Health (excluding agencies)	2,290	40	2,330	2,250	30	2,280
Medical and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency	800	30	830	780	30	810
Purchasing and Supplies Agency	340	10	340	330	10	330

Note:
Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.

Statistics on the number of contractors employed by Departments are not published. The civil service statistics represent those employees paid directly from the Department's payroll. Any contractors employed via agencies and so not paid directly by the Department are not included.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by his Department are above state retirement age. [158950]

Dawn Primarolo: The available information is shown in the following table.

The information requested is not available for non-departmental public bodies.

	Number of staff over state retirement age[2] (where age is known[1])	*Total number of staff (age known[1])*	*Percentage over retirement age*
Department of Health (excluding agencies)	10	2,330	0.43
Medical and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency	n/a	n/a	n/a
Purchasing and Supplies Agency	n/a	n/a	n/a

n/a = not available
[1] Analysis has been carried out where age known
[2] State retirement age is 65 for men and 60 for women
Note:
Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Mandate 30 September 2006

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by his Department on official hospitality in the last 12 months. [158893]

Dawn Primarolo: For the period October 2006 to September 2007 the Department spent £1,198,911 on working lunches and hospitality.

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on how many occasions he has visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [158913]

Dawn Primarolo: The Secretary of State and other departmental Ministers all make regular visits to national

health service and social care facilities, including hospitals, general practitioner practices and primary and community services.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and the former Secretary of State my right hon. Friend the member for Leicester, West (Ms Hewitt) visited the following regions in an official capacity in the last 12 months:

	Number
Yorkshire and Humber	3
London	18
North West	2
South West	5
North East	1
East of England	2
South Central	2
South East Coast	1
East Midlands	0
West Midlands	3

Departments: Policy

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what policy changes his Department has implemented since 27 June 2007. [159296]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has implemented a number of new and changed policies since 27 June 2007. We have kept Parliament fully informed of these changes. For example on:

The Government's response to the inquiry into Modernising Medical Careers, 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 16WS

The Government's response to the Joint Committee's report on the Human Tissue and Embryos (Draft) Bill (Cm 7209) 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 15WS

Lord Darzi's interim report Our NHS; Our Future; NHS Next Stage Review, 10 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 297.

The Government's response to the Healthcare Commission's report on the outbreaks of clostridium difficile at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 557.

The Government's response to the Chief Scientific Adviser's review of obesity Tackling Obesities: Future Choices, 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 825.

Dietary Supplements: EU Law

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the outcome was of *(a)* the meeting between the Food Standards Agency and the European Commission on 12 September 2007 to discuss the interpretation and implementation of Article 5 of the Food Supplements Directive and *(b)* the Working Group of the Council and Commission held on 24 September; [159992]

(2) if he will make a statement on his planned future actions in relation to the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements; [159993]

(3) if he will make a statement on progress in achieving his objectives for the setting of maximum permitted levels for nutrients in food supplements; [159994]

(4) when he next plans to visit a specialist health food retailer to discuss the possible impact of the setting of maximum permitted levels for nutrients in food supplements; [159995]

(5) whether officials of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Food Standards Agency plan to liaise with their counterparts in (i) the Republic of Ireland and (ii) each other EU member state to discuss their position on the setting of maximum permitted levels of nutrients in food supplements; [159996]

(6) if he will place in the Library a copy of the letters recently sent to the governments of *(a)* Guernsey and *(b)* Jersey by (i) the Food Standards Agency and (ii) the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency in relation to the trade in food supplements and herbal remedies; [159997]

(7) when he expects the European Commission and Working Groups of the Council to bring forward figures for the permitted levels of vitamins and minerals in food supplements; who is participating in those working group discussions to represent the United Kingdom; what steps he is taking to influence other member state governments outside the working group meetings; when last he met the European Commissioner to discuss these matters; and if he will make a statement; [159999]

(8) what the conclusions were of the Food Standards Agency and Better Regulation Executive assessment of the regulatory impact on *(a)* specialist manufacturers, *(b)* specialist retailers and *(c)* other businesses of the setting of maximum permitted levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements under the provisions of Article 5 of the Food Supplements Directive; and if he will offer compensation to small and medium sized enterprises which suffer adversely as a result of the implementation of this legislation; [160000]

(9) what steps *(a)* the Food Standards Agency and *(b)* the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency plan to take in relation to the trade in food supplements and herbal remedies from the Channel Islands. [160001]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) is responsible for food supplements issues and for negotiations relating to the European Commission (EC) Food Supplements Directive. No recent meetings have been held between Health Ministers and the European Commissioner concerning setting maximum permitted levels of vitamins and minerals in food supplements under this directive. Meetings will be held with stakeholders in early 2008 to discuss this issue.

The bilateral meeting between the FSA and the EC on 12 September was held principally to gain insight into the Commission's intentions as regards the process by which maximum and minimum levels of vitamins and minerals in food supplements would be set. The Commission indicated that an orientation paper on setting maximum and minimum levels which it had issued in late July would be the starting point for discussions at working group level, which began on 24 September.

The aim of the first working group meeting of 24 September was for the Commission to obtain member states' initial views on the orientation paper. We have been advised by the FSA that general discussions on

the orientation paper in the working group revealed that many member states are yet to establish views on many issues. The Commission has asked member states to consider some of the issues presented in the orientation paper in preparation for more detailed discussions at the next working group meeting which has provisionally been scheduled for November and will be attended by FSA officials. We have been informed by the FSA that the Commission intends to produce draft amending legislation with respect to permitted levels of vitamins and minerals in food supplements by January 2009.

We have been advised by the FSA that their officials met with their counterparts from the Republic of Ireland and other member states during, and in the margins of, the working group meeting on 24 September. The next working group meeting will provide further opportunity for bilateral discussions. The FSA currently has no additional meetings arranged to meet their counterparts in other member states outside working group meetings.

The Government consider that the approach to regulation of food supplements should be safety-based and that consumers should have the right to make an informed choice unless their safety is compromised. Good progress has been made in promoting work carried out in the United Kingdom in establishing upper levels for vitamins and minerals and reference has been made to this in the Commission's orientation paper.

We have been advised that the FSA is continuing its work on determining the potential economic impact of setting maximum levels to support future negotiations. In the absence of proposals from the Commission, a range of possible options is being considered. Until proposals are received and this work completed, the impact on small and medium sized enterprises of setting levels is unknown. We cannot, therefore, comment on the matter of compensation.

There are no plans for Health Ministers to visit a specialist health food retailer to discuss the possible impact of setting of maximum levels of vitamins and minerals in food supplements.

The FSA wrote to the Governments of Jersey and Guernsey on 10 September concerning the trade in food supplements between these respective Crown Dependencies and the UK and suggested a collective meeting with representatives of these governments. Copies of the letter sent by the FSA to the Bailiwick of Jersey have been placed in the Library. The release of the letter sent by the FSA to the Bailiwick of Guernsey is currently under consideration by the FSA under Section 36 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 which precludes copies being placed in the Library at this time.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) believes that herbal remedies from the Channel Islands are subject to the Traditional Herbal Medicines Directive 2004/24/EC. The MHRA has already begun discussions about this with the Government of Guernsey and wrote to the Government of Jersey to open discussions on 28 June 2007. Copies of the MHRA's recent letters to the Bailiwick of Guernsey and letter to the Bailiwick of Jersey have been placed in the Library.

Drugs: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many registered drug addicts there were in the *(a)* Leeds West constituency and *(b)* the City of Leeds in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [159851]

Dawn Primarolo: No register of drug addicts is maintained. However, statistics for the number of people in Leeds receiving treatment for drug addiction are available from 2003-04 onwards and are set out in the following table.

	Number
2003-04	2,453
2004-05	3,627
2005-06	4,005
2006-07	3,879

Family Practitioner Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the basis was for the statement in his Department's White Paper Our Health, Our Care, Our Say, Cm 6737, published on 30 January 2006, that dual registration at GP surgeries was *(a)* costly and *(b)* difficult to introduce. [156806]

Mr. Bradshaw: Funding of most primary medical care practices is largely dependent on the number and characteristics of the patients registered with that provider. In addition, quality and enhanced service payments are also usually based on delivery of care to the patients registered with that practice. Therefore, any system of dual or multiple registrations would fund more than one provider to deliver care and services to the same patient—doubling the costs, while at the same time complicating the care management and co-ordination of care to such patients. This would have consequences for the continuity of patient care and ensuring a single comprehensive and up to date patient record. There would also be complicating factors in determining allocation of resources for the provision of hospital and community health services to primary care trusts should patients be registered with different practices in different primary care trusts.

Following the publication of Lord Darzi's "Our NHS our future" interim report for the NHS next stage review, the Department is currently considering what other new models might enable patients to switch GPs more easily and register with GPs outside where they live.

General Practitioners

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts form the 25 per cent. of trusts with the poorest GP provision; and what measures are used to calculate such provision. [159938]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is currently working with the national health service to confirm the appropriate indicators under each of the measures set out in "our NHS our future". Next Stage Review interim report—(primary care clinicians, patient satisfaction and health

outcomes). A list of primary care trusts which form the 25 per cent. of trusts with poorest provision will be published shortly.

Health Professions: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who the 72 doctors, nurses and health professionals are who have agreed to become clinical champions in strategic health authorities as part of the NHS Next Stage Review, as stated in issue three of the month, published on his Department's website on 4 October. [158458]

Ann Keen: Each strategic health authority (SHA) is responsible for establishing eight local clinical pathway groups. Lists of members should be sought directly from the SHAs themselves.

Health Services: Luton

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what impact the conclusions of the recent review by Lord Darzi are expected to have on health inequalities in Luton South. [158802]

Ann Keen: Lord Darzi published his interim findings on 4 October. His final report will be published in June 2008.

Lord Darzi's interim report set out a vision for a fairer national health service ensuring equal access to NHS services for everyone.

Health Services: Pharmacy

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration was given to the merits of appointing a pharmacist to Lord Darzi's advisory board on future strategy on primary and community care. [158748]

Mr. Bradshaw: Lord Darzi has appointed Andy Murdock, Pharmacy Director for Lloyds pharmacy, to the advisory board. The interim report of the NHS Next Stage Review published on 4 October included the names of the initial appointments to the advisory board, but it was not possible at this stage to include details of all the proposed appointments.

Health Services: Pilot Projects

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department expects completion of the long term condition whole system demonstrator project action plans for *(a)* Newham, *(b)* Kent and *(c)* Cornwall; what the estimated cost to the public purse of each project is; and what steps he is taking to engage with stakeholders to inform the development of the implementation plans. [158468]

Ann Keen: The three Long Term Condition Whole System Demonstrator sites are currently in a detailed planning phase. We anticipate that the plans will be substantially complete by the end of November.

Funding of £12 million has been made available in 2007-08 to support these demonstrator pilots. Funding for future years is being agreed following the recent announcement of the Comprehensive Spending Review settlement for health.

Stakeholder engagement is key to the development and design of the implementation plans for each of the Whole System Demonstrator sites. Each of the sites have implemented robust governance arrangements which include representatives from the respective local authorities and primary care trust's and other key stakeholder groups. The sites have been proactive in identifying opportunities to engage locally in a wide variety of forums both directly and indirectly related to the programme.

Healthcare: Acquired Infections

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1843W, on healthcare: acquired infections, when his Department expects the project to evaluate environmental cleaning for MRSA using Steris vaporised hydrogen peroxide equipment along with wet disinfection to be completed. [159269]

Ann Keen: The Department's project on the importance of environmental contamination, including on assessment of gaseous fumigation products such as Steris, is due to be complete by the end of May 2008.

Hospitals: Cleaning Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what central monitoring process will be used by his Department to monitor the deep cleaning of all hospitals over the next year; [160251]

(2) what monitoring documents officials in his Department plan to compile to assess the effectiveness of deep cleaning programmes for hospitals in tackling superbugs. [160253]

Ann Keen: There are no plans to monitor centrally the deep cleaning of hospitals. Arrangements for the programme are entirely a matter for local determination in discussions between trusts and their strategic health authority which will be allocating funding. There are also no plans to assess the effectiveness of deep-cleaning. Undertaking deep-clean is just one of a number of approaches trusts may take in tackling healthcare associated infections, and isolating the contribution of any one approach to assess its effectiveness would require activity in all others to cease.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the first programme of hospital deep cleaning will commence; when he expects it to be completed; when the programme will be evaluated in order for the commencement of a second programme; and if he will make a statement. [159941]

Ann Keen: The deep-cleaning programme announced by the Prime Minister in September 2007 will take place between now and the end of the financial year.

There are many potential benefits to deep cleaning, and these are dependent on the particular needs of each hospital. Details of the programme, including evaluation, will be decided locally and monitored by strategic health authorities.

Hospitals: Disease Control

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the level at which fines for poor control of hospital infection, as announced in his Department's NHS Next Stage Review: Interim Report, published 4 October 2007, need to be set to establish appropriate incentives to improve hospital cleanliness; to whom the fines will be paid; what assessment he has made of the likely effect of fining hospitals on the level of resources available for other elements of patient care; and if he will make a statement. [158465]

Ann Keen: Care Quality Commission's primary role will be to ensure patient care is safe. It will have a wide range of powers including issuing warning notices, closing wards and de-registering providers. Administrative fines are just one part of the picture. The level of administrative fine will be based on the Ministry of Justice's standard scales, and any income will go to the Consolidated Fund. But, we do not intend to take large sums of money away from front-line health services. Rather, the ability of patients to choose where they are treated means that hospitals that cannot assure the public that they are free from serious infection will not be chosen.

Human Tissue and Embryos Bill (Draft)

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the draft Human Tissue and Embryos Bill. [159825]

Dawn Primarolo: Since the publication of the Human Tissue and Embryos (Draft) Bill on 17 May 2007, the Department has received over 5,800 representations.

These included 5,616 postcards which were a result of a campaign run by the Society for the Protection of Unborn Children. The campaign covered the following stated position:

The principle that human embryos should be afforded the respect due to human beings;

to oppose the creation of inter-species (human-animal) embryos;

to introduce a complete ban on human cloning; and

to oppose amendments that will lead (even inadvertently) to more abortions.

The Department has also received 241 other representations on the draft Bill, which have included such issues as:

Alternatives to embryonic stem cell research;

the issue of inter-species embryos;

the possibility of changes to current abortion laws;

that the Bill has a lack of an ethical framework; and

the removal of the reference to the 'need for a father' as part of the requirement to take account of the welfare of the child before providing licensed assisted conception treatments.

Infant Foods: EU Action

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what process the Government followed in deciding its policy and interpretation of Commission Directive 2006/14/EC on Infant Formula and Follow-on-Formula; and when it expects to announce related decisions. [160484]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency has consulted stakeholders on new draft regulations, which will implement EU directive 2006/141/EC on infant and follow-on formula, and will lay down rules about the composition, labelling and advertising of formulae. Comments received from the stakeholders are now being collated and evaluated by the agency. These will then be published together with the agency responses. The agency also intends to consult in the near future on the accompanying draft guidance notes. The directive requires that regulations come into force on 1 January 2008.

Influenza: Vaccination

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many and what percentage of *(a)* registered carers and *(b)* people with diabetes in the Stockport Primary Care Trust area received an influenza vaccination in each year since 1997; [158002]

(2) how many pensioners received a free influenza vaccine in *(a)* Cheadle constituency and *(b)* Stockport Primary Care Trust area in each year since 1997; and what percentage each figure represents of those eligible in each year; [158004]

(3) how many free influenza vaccines *(a)* are available for use, *(b)* will be available for use by November 2007 and *(c)* will be available for use by December 2007 in (i) Cheadle constituency and (ii) Stockport Primary Care Trust area. [158005]

Dawn Primarolo: Flu vaccine uptake data was collected for the first time in those aged 65 and over from 2000-01. Uptake data for those aged under 65 in an at risk group started in 2005-06 and for carers in 2006-07.

Information is collected by primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority. Information is not collected by constituency.

The number and percentage of those aged 65 and over, those aged under 65 with diabetes and carers who received a flu vaccine in Stockport PCT for which data were collected are shown as follows:

	65 and over		*Under 65 with diabetes*		*Carers*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2000-01	29,885	64	—	—	—	—
2001-02	32,782	69	—	—	—	—

	65 and over		Under 65 with diabetes		Carers	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
2002-03	34,225	72	—	—	—	—
2003-04	34,769	73	—	—	—	—
2004-05	33,475	75	—	—	—	—
2005-06	38,469	79	2,974	76	—	—
2006-07	34,953	77	2,698	71	490	54

The Department does not purchase flu vaccine on behalf of general practitioner (GPs). GPs place orders for vaccine direct from the supplier of their choice. There are six suppliers of flu vaccine to the United Kingdom.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1171-2W, on influenza: vaccinations, when he expects all 15 million doses of the seasonal influenza vaccination to be delivered; what targets the UK Vaccine Industry Group has been given for *(a)* producing and *(b)* delivering the 15 million doses of seasonal influenza vaccine; and if he will make a statement. [160424]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department requested 15.75 million doses from manufacturers for this winter's flu programme. Latest estimates from suppliers show that over 16 million doses of flu vaccine are available for distribution. We do not set the UK Vaccine Industry group targets for the delivery of flu vaccine however, by week ending 12 October, 13.2 million doses had been distributed in the United Kingdom.

Junior Doctors: Working Hours

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of junior doctors worked a maximum of 48-hours a week in the latest period for which figures are available. [159805]

Ann Keen: The new deal contract monitoring returns give an indication of national health service readiness for fully implementing the working time directive (WTD) 48-hour week for doctors in training. Monitoring information for 2006 is published on the NHS employers website at:

www.Nhsemployers.org/pay-conditions/pay-conditions-467.cfm

and showed that approximately 40 per cent. of doctors in training worked a 48-hour week. The 2007 new deal information will be collected on 31 October 2007 by local NHS employers, then collated and published in early 2008.

It is the responsibility of local employers to implement WTD as part of their health and safety obligations.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether time spent asleep by a junior doctor on call counts against the 48 hour working time directive; and if he will make a statement. [159986]

Ann Keen: The European Working Time Directive defines working time is as follows:

"Working time shall mean any period during which the worker is working, at the employer's disposal and carrying out his or her activity or duties, in accordance with national laws and/or practice".

The European Court of Justice ruled in the SiMAP and Jaeger cases that time spent on call by doctors must be regarded in its entirety as working time, even if they are asleep, if they are required to be present at the health centre.

Life Expectancy

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the life expectancy at *(a)* birth, *(b)* 18, *(c)* 40 and *(d)* 60 years is for (i) men and (ii) women in each local authority area. [160491]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 25 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the life expectancy at (a) birth, (b) 18, (c) 40 and (d) over 60 years is for (i) men and (ii) women in each local authority area. (160491)

Life expectancies at 18, 40 and 60 years at local authority level are not available. Life expectancies at birth for males and females at local authority level are published annually by ONS, based on three-year rolling averages. Figures for the periods 1991-93 to 2003-05 are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk:=8841

Figures on life expectancy at birth and at 65 years at local authority level for 2004-06 will be published on the National Statistics website in late November 2007.

Macular Degeneration: Rheopheresis

Mr. Brady: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of rheopheresis in treating dry age-related macular degeneration. [159980]

Ann Keen: The Department is aware of rheopheresis but has not itself made an assessment of the therapy.

Mesothelioma: Merseyside

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in Merseyside have been diagnosed with mesothelioma in each of the last five years, broken down by hospital trust. [157106]

Ann Keen: The information requested has been set out in the following table.

National health service hospitals in England, 2001-02 to 2005-06

	Wirral Hospital (RBL)	*St. Helens and Knowsley Hospitals (RBN)*	*Cardiothoracic Centre—Liverpool (RBQ)*	*Aintree Hospitals (REM)*	*Clatterbridge Centre for Oncology (REN)*	*Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals (RQ6)*
2001-02	28	37	31	26	***	*
2002-03	11	22	26	26	***	7
2003-04	10	14	50	20	***	*
2004-05	33	24	46	17	136	*
2005-06	22	10	62	27	100	*

Notes:
1. Diagnosis (primary diagnosis)
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
2. Count of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) where the primary diagnosis was Mesothelioma** for selected Acute Trusts in Merseyside.
** The ICD-10 codes used in this analysis were as follows:
C45 Mesothelioma
D19 Benign neoplasm of mesothelial tissue
3. Data on FCEs are currently not available from 2001-02 to 2003-04 for Clatterbridge Centre of Oncology.
4. An FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
5. Low numbers
Due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between 1 and 5 have been suppressed and replaced with * (an asterisk).
6. Assessing growth through time
HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected within the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.
7. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example a number of procedures may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and may no longer be accounted in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.
8. Ungrossed data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Source:
HES, The Information Centre for health and social care

Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus: Eastern Region

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of MRSA were reported in each hospital in the Eastern Region in each of the last five years. [160211]

Ann Keen: Data are not available for individual hospitals therefore we have provided data for acute national health service trusts in the Eastern Region. The following table provides data from the mandatory surveillance scheme of methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*, bloodstream infections in acute NHS Trusts in England.

	April to March each year				
NHS Trusts	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals	38	30	42	36	24
Bedford Hospital	19	26	9	32	27
Cambridge University Hospitals	127	126	123	112	81
East and North Hertfordshire	86	56	50	58	53
Essex Rivers Healthcare	18	16	37	19	24
Hinchingbrooke Healthcare	25	26	12	32	15
Ipswich Hospital	52	52	51	43	51
James Paget University Hospitals	36	30	50	41	27
Luton and Dunstable Hospital	28	21	19	32	21
Mid Essex Hospital Services	33	43	41	38	12
Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital	57	64	58	58	48
Papworth Hospital	24	13	7	14	7
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals	10	10	16	9	11
Southend University Hospital	23	27	19	29	21
The Princess Alexandra Hospital	37	32	44	20	25
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital .King's Lynn	36	30	51	25	13
West Hertfordshire Hospitals	40	45	53	51	42
West Suffolk Hospitals	24	37	43	29	27

Source:
Health Protection Agency—provisional data

Neurology: Out of Area Treatment

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many persons resident in Wales were treated as *(a)* in-patients and *(b)* out-patients at the Walton Centre, Fazakerley, Liverpool in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [159466]

Ann Keen: The information requested has been set out in the following tables.

Count of finished consultant episodes (FCE) at the Walton Centre for neurology and neurosurgery NHS trust where the patient was resident in Wales

	FCE
2005-06	1,025
2004-05	870
2003-04	875

Notes:
A FCE is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have one episode of care within the year.
In-patients are defined as patients who are admitted to hospital and occupy a bed, including both admissions where an overnight stay is planned and day cases.
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data—i.e. the data are ungrossed.
Source:
Hospital Episodes Statistics (HES), The Information Centre for health and social care.

2005-06 Count of out-patient appointments at the Walton Centre for neurology and neurosurgery NHS Trust where the patient was resident in Wales

Attendance type	*Appointment count*
Attendances	3,985
Did not attend	328

Notes:
Out-patient data for 2003-04 and 2004-05 are not available as they were classed as provisional/experimental.
The information above provides a count of the number of planned/booked appointments for out-patients.
Attendance type identifies if the attendance occurred and if it was a first, subsequent, cancelled or did not attend. 99.9 per cent. of this field is complete.
The figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls—i.e. the data are ungrossed.
Source:
HES; Out-patients, The Information Centre for health and social care.

NHS Direct

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) on what issue the most complaints were received by NHS Direct in each of the last 12 months; [159965]

(2) how many complaints were received by NHS Direct in each financial year since it was established. [159966]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the type of complaints is not held centrally but may be available from the Chairman of NHS Direct NHS Trust.

The information on numbers of complaints received by NHS Direct is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table.

	Number of contacts[1]	*Number of complaints*
2004-05	15,900,996	341
2005-06	20,419,837	898
2006-07	[2]27,942,595	980

[1] Number of contacts includes all calls NHS Direct have dealt with and the number of visits to their website.
[2] Figures for 2006-07 do not include call volumes for new services brought in that year (long-term conditions calls, National Care Records calls and Category C ambulance calls) as the figures available are estimated (20,600 in total) rather than actual call volumes

NHS Drugs

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of individuals who were in receipt of controlled drugs through prescription in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [159442]

Dawn Primarolo: It is not possible to say how many people were prescribed controlled drugs, as the data are not collected by individual. The number of national health service prescription items for controlled drugs dispensed in the community in England is shown in the following table.

	Number of prescription items for controlled drugs (000)
2002	44,811
2003	44,993
2004	44,982
2005	43,178
2006	42,867

Source:
Prescription cost analysis system

NHS Trusts: Ministerial Powers

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made *(a)* an intervention order under section 66 of the NHS Act 2006 and *(b)* an order declaring an NHS body to be in default under section 68 of the NHS Act 2006 since 1 April. [160481]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 24 October 2007]:* No.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the presentation entitled Financial Regime, given at the Financial Management and Reporting Steering Group meeting on 23 March 2007, which trusts were issued loans on 22 March 2007; and what the value was of each loan. [159833]

Mr. Bradshaw: The national health service trusts issued loans on 22 March, and the value of these loans are provided in the following table.

NHS trust name	*Loan value (£000)*
Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	14,700
Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	5,000
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	17,500
Bolton Hospitals NHS Trust	4,500
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	29,322
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	6,250
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	7,800
East Cheshire NHS Trust	7,000
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	4,000
Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	14,000

NHS trust name	Loan value (£000)
George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust	6,800
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Trust	3,000
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	3,279
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	10,896
Humber Mental Health Teaching NHS Trust	1,500
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	23,400
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	6,604
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	11,000
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	23,400
North Bristol NHS Trust	52,000
North Cheshire Hospitals NHS Trust	8,800
North Cumbria Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	12,000
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	15,000
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust	10,000
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	23,830
Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust	5,600
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	9,600
Nuffield Orthopaedic NHS Trust	1,000
Oxford Radcliffe Hospital NHS Trust	19,986
Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	2,500
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	8,415
Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	13,650
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings Lynn NHS Trust	6,300
Rob Jones and A Hunt Orthopaedic NHS Trust	3,400
Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust	38,000
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust	9,000
Scarborough and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust	7,646
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	12,299
South Central Ambulance Service NHS Trust	1,115
South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust	28,000
South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust	18,500
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	25,000
St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust	34,000
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	56,000
The Royal West Sussex NHS Trust	23,000
Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust	1,700
United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust	20,300
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust	6,500
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	11,200
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	1,950
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	36,094
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	5,000
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	25,000
Worcestershire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust	5,632
Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust	17,005
Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust	2,908
Total	777,881

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the presentation entitled Financial Regime given at the Financial Management and Reporting Steering Group meeting on 23 March, whether the loans issued on 22 March affected the financial position in 2006-07 of the trusts to which they were issued. [159950]

Mr. Bradshaw: The interest accruing in 2006-07 on the loans let to National Health Service trusts on 22 March 2007 totalled £1 million.

The assurance and authorisation process in respect of working capital loans ensured that the repayment of the loans was linked to improved financial performance by the NHS trusts. Interest costs and principal repayments in future years should therefore be financed through this improvement in the retained surpluses of the NHS trusts.

NHS: Higher Education

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what means he monitors NHS contracts with higher education institutions for initial training and professional development services for NHS personnel with reference to the *(a)* quality of delivery and *(b)* appropriateness of funding in relation to the costs of these services. [160098]

Ann Keen: Monitoring of national health service contracts with higher education institutions for initial training and professional development services for NHS personnel with reference to the quality of delivery and appropriateness of funding in relation to the costs of these services are the responsibility of the strategic health authorities (SHAs). Contracts include a quality framework setting out requirements on higher education institutions to ensure training and professional development are of high quality. SHAs are in the process of applying standard benchmark prices to their pre-registration contracts where these have been agreed nationally.

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions his Department has held with representatives of higher education institutions on workforce planning involving initial professional qualification and continuing professional development for NHS staff; and if he will make a statement. [160099]

Ann Keen: The commissioning of training of doctors, dentists and other healthcare professionals is carried out as a partnership between the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), higher education institutions and the Department. Training for nursing, midwifery and allied health professions is funded on a contract basis by strategic health authorities and is delivered by a range of universities and colleges.

The required numbers of doctors and dentists entering training are set having considered for the future workforce requirements of the national health service.

For dentists, this has resulted in an expansion of dental school places from 670 to 840, and the opening of two new medical schools in Plymouth and Preston from this autumn.

For doctors, following a rapid expansion in medical student intake from 3,749 in 1997-98 to 6,194 in 2006-07, a decision was taken in July 2006 that no further expansion of medical school places was required. Medical student numbers will be kept under review taking account of the changing demographics of the workforce and the workforce requirements of the NHS.

It is the responsibility of employing NHS trusts to ensure that their staff are up to date and fit to practise. They should ensure that continuing professional development needs identified through regular appraisal are supported.

NHS: Information Services

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what checks his Department and NHS trusts carry out on literature displayed in general practice waiting rooms and hospital out-patient departments to make sure that such literature contains only sound, evidence based information. [160745]

Ann Keen: Assuring the quality of information on display is the responsibility of local national health service organisations.

For information on the internet, the Department has developed NHS Choices as the primary health and social care information portal for the NHS. This information service contains evidence-based information on clinical conditions and treatments, drawn from sources such as NHS Direct and the National Electronic Library for Health.

Departmental officials have been working with patient groups to consider options for an Information Accreditation Scheme which would 'kitemark' organisations that produce health and social care information, in order to reassure people that the information they use comes from a reliable source.

NHS: Milton Keynes

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what spare capacity, expressed in patient numbers, is available for *(a)* under 18, *(b)* over 18 fee-paying and *(c)* over 18 charge-exempt people to register with each NHS practice in Milton Keynes. [159205]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally.

NHS: Reorganisation

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will list the consultees to the interim report from the Our NHS Our Future exercise. [158743]

Ann Keen: Lord Darzi has:

visited and spoken to 1,500 national health service staff in 17 NHS organisations across the country;

taken part in a nationwide day of detailed discussions on the priorities for the NHS with 1,000 patients, public and health and social care staff in nine different towns and cities;

met with representatives of 250 stakeholder groups representing the full diversity of our population and staff;

read more than 1,400 letters and emails from people up and down the country; and

in preparation for the second stage of the review, brought together over 1,000 clinicians in groups in every part of the country to focus on discussing how best to plan and provide care for patients.

The interim report is based on these views, visits and discussions.

NHS: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to reassign points in the clinical domain of the quality and outcomes framework to the access domain. [160267]

Mr. Bradshaw: NHS employers are responsible for negotiating changes to the General Medical Services contract with the British Medical Association's General Practitioners Committee, and they will be considering potential changes to the contract for 2008-09.

Ophthalmic Services: Expenditure

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the total cost of ophthalmic services in each of the regions was in each of the last three years. [158908]

Ann Keen: As part of the annual accounts process, primary care trusts and strategic health authorities (SHA) now show total resource expenditure on both primary and secondary care services in each of 23 clinical areas. The following table shows the programme budget data on one of those categories, eye/vision problems. This should include expenditure on primary care services provided through the general ophthalmic services, which provide sight tests and optical vouchers to those patient groups entitled to these national health service services, as well as the cost of secondary and additional primary care services directly attributable to problems relating to the eye and vision. The cost of any general practitioners consultations involving eye or vision problems is not separately quantified and is therefore not included in this data.

Programme budget data on expenditure on eyelvision problems in England, 2004-05 to 2006-07

£000

SHA code	SHA	2004-05[1]	2005-06[1]	2006-07
Q30	North East Health Authority (HA)	73,558	69,074	76,377
Q31	North West HA	220,567	210,838	209,352
Q32	Yorkshire and the Humber HA	155,479	166,860	167,417
Q33	East Midlands HA	100,705	110,896	104,695
Q34	West Midlands HA	151,801	154,088	164,896
Q35	East of England HA	145,270	151,673	146,988
Q36	London HA	192,151	189,848	172,871
Q37	South East Coast HA	103,140	108,149	107,019
Q38	South Central HA	90,739	94,953	89,726
Q39	South West HA	126,114	132,268	122,223
	England	1,359,524	1,388,646	1,361,565

[1] Data are configured to the 10 new strategic health authority areas; figures for 2004-05 and 2005-06 are obtained by grossing the figures from the former SHA configuration and may include some pro rata estimation.

Patient Safety Direct

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to establish Patient Safety Direct, as announced in his Department's publication, Our NHS, Our Future, NHS Next Stage Review: Interim Report, gateway reference 8857, published 4 October. [158466]

Ann Keen: Patient Safety Direct is an opportunity to make it easier for front-line staff to report patient safety incidents. Currently the main line of reporting incidents is though the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) reporting and learning system. Patient Safety Direct will strengthen this reporting line by adding a new and more accessible portal for national health service staff and ultimately patients to use. The NPSA is scoping the work with all the various organisations which need to be involved. Plans will be developed in phase two of Lord Darzi's NHS Next Stage Review and, following piloting, we expect to move to implementation by the end of 2008.

Patients: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis is for the statement on page 15 of his Department's NHS Next Stage Review: Interim Report, published on 4 October 2007, that 56 per cent. of hospital inpatients did not have the opportunity to speak to a doctor. [158475]

Ann Keen: The figure of 56 per cent. was derived from the Healthcare Commission's 2006-07 National Patient Survey of Adult Inpatients. It refers to the proportion of patients who said that their family, or someone who cared for them, did not always have enough opportunity to talk to a doctor.

Research for Innovation, Speculation and Creativity Funding Committee: Public Appointments

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who the members were of the Research for Innovation, Speculation and Creativity Funding Committee on 13 September. [159925]

Dawn Primarolo: The members of the National Institute for Health Research's Research for Innovation, Speculation and Creativity awards panel are:

Mr. Malcolm Lowe-Lauri (Chair)
Dr. Kofi Anie
Professor David Armstrong
Ms Janette Benaddi
Professor Bipin Bhakta
Professor Matthew Cooke
Professor Huw Davies
Dr. Alan Driver
Professor Ewan Ferlie
Dr. Ian Greener
Mr. George Hanna
Professor Mark Hawley
Professor Chris Lowe
Professor Lorna McKee
Mr. Robert Morgan
Dr. Stephen Peckham
Dr. Shum Prakash
Professor Martin Rossor
Professor Jenny Simpson
Dr. Andrew Valance-Owen

Resteosis

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of resteosis there were between *(a)* 1990 and 2000 and *(b)* 2000 and 2006. [156163]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect this data centrally.

Strategic Health Authorities: Reorganisation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to restructure the regional boundaries of the strategic health authorities. [158185]

Ann Keen: As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced on 4 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 962

> "there will be no further centrally dictated, top-down restructuring to primary care trusts and strategic health authorities for the foreseeable future."

Streptococcus: Pregnant Women

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1400W, on Streptococcus: pregnant women, if he will take steps to bring the assessment of the most recent evidence on testing pregnant women for group B streptococcus forward in the ongoing programme of work of the UK National Screening Committee; and what method the Committee uses to disseminate the results of its work. [160975]

Ann Keen: The UK National Screening Committee is planning to hold a stakeholder workshop in the spring of 2008 to consider the most recent evidence on screening pregnant women for carriage of group B Streptococcus. The outcome of the workshop will be made available through the national health service specialist screening library at www.library.nhs.uk/screening

Suffolk Primary Care Trust: Pay

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by Suffolk Primary Care Trust on salaries and wages for *(a)* general and senior managers, *(b)* nurses and midwives and *(c)* administrative and clerical staff in each year since its creation. [159222]

Ann Keen: Suffolk Primary Care Trust was established on 1 October 2006, therefore data are not available before then. Staff cost figures have been collected in the financial returns for 2006-07 but are still subject to validation. Figures should be available by the end of November 2007.

Varicose Veins: Medical Treatments

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts fund endovenous laser treatment. [158817]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not collected centrally. Decisions to fund treatments are made by primary care trusts in consultation with healthcare professionals who are best placed to decide on the most appropriate treatments for their patients.

West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust: Pay

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by *(a)* West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust and *(b)* Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust on salaries and wages for (i) general and senior managers, (ii) nurses and midwives and (iii) administrative and clerical staff in each year since 1997. [159221]

Ann Keen: The expenditure on staff costs for managers and senior managers, nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff, and administrative and clerical staff for West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust and Ipswich hospital are shown in the following table. These are the only years that data are currently available by individual organisation.

£000

	1999-2000	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
West Suffolk Hospital NHS Trust							
Managers and senior managers	1,322	1,514	2,001	2,415	2,839	3,730	3,758
Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	16,601	18,076	21,390	22,735	25,783	29,346	28,731
Administrative and clerical staff	3,793	4,227	4,876	5,329	6,077	6,884	6,916
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust							
Managers and senior managers	2,127	2,522	3,142	3,758	4,462	4,750	5,786
Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	20,050	21,858	24,538	26,843	29,826	34,506	34,980
Administrative and clerical staff	5,078	5,990	7,060	8,002	9,031	10,568	11,431

Source:
Financial Monitoring and Analysis NHS Accounting

TREASURY

Cannabis: South West Region

Mr. Steen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* yachts and *(b)* other boats containing cannabis were seized in the South West in each year since 2001. [160640]

Angela Eagle: National information on seizures made by HM Revenue and Customs since 2001 is contained in the annual reports for HM Customs and Excise and HM Revenue and Customs, available at www.hmrc.gov.uk

Information of seizures at a local level cannot be disclosed as this would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent HM Revenue and Customs' controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime.

Children

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the gender ratio was for children born in England and Wales in each income decile in the last year for which data are available. [160492]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 25 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question on the gender ratio for children born in England and Wales in each income decile in the last year for which data is available. I am replying in her absence. (160492)

In England and Wales parental income is not collected at birth registration. I am, therefore, unable to provide you with the statistics you have requested.

Clostridium: Death

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* people and *(b)* people under the age of (i) one and (ii) five died from (A) clostridium difficile and (B) MRSA infection in each year from 1997 to 2006. [160268]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 25 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many (a) people and (b) people under the age of (i) one and (ii) five died from (A) clostridium difficile and (B) MRS A infection in each year since 1997 to 2006. I am replying in her absence. (160268)

Special analyses of deaths in England and Wales involving Clostridium difficile (C. difficile) and MRSA are undertaken annually by ONS and results are published in Health Statistics Quarterly. The latest year for which figures are available is 2005.

The tables below present the numbers of deaths where C. difficile and MRSA were mentioned on death certificates and where they were the underlying cause of death. Data for 1997, 1998, and 2000 are not available for C. difficile (see background note 1).

Table 1: Number of death certificates with clostridium. difficile[1] mentioned and as the underlying cause of death, England and Wales, 1999 and 2001-05[2]

	Mentions			Underlying cause[3]		
	All ages	Age under one year	Age under five years[4]	All ages	Age under one year	Age under five years[4]
1999	975	0	0	531	0	0
2000	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001	1,214	0	0	691	0	0
2002	1,428	0	0	756	0	0
2003	1,788	1	1	958	1	1
2004	2,247	0	1	1,245	0	0
2005	3,807	0	1	2,074	0	1

n/a = Not available

[1] Identified using the methodology described in Office for National Statistics (2006) report: Deaths involving clostridium difficile: England and Wales, 1999-2004. Health Statistics Quarterly 30, 56-60.

[2] Deaths registered in 1999, deaths occurring in 2001-05.

[3] Excludes neonatal deaths (aged under 28 days)

[4] Total for under five years includes deaths under one year of age.

Table 2: Number of death certificates with MRSA[1] mentioned and as the underlying cause of death, England and Wales, 1997-2005[2]

	Mentions			Underlying cause[3]		
	All ages	Age under one year	Age under five years[4]	All ages	Age under one year	Age under five years[4]
1997	389	1	1	102	0	0
1998	412	3	4	118	2	2
1999	487	0	1	126	0	0
2000	669	0	0	195	0	0
2001	734	1	1	254	0	0
2002	800	0	1	248	0	0
2003	955	2	2	321	0	0
2004	1,168	1	1	360	0	0
2005	1,629	6	6	467	2	2

[1] Identified using the methodology described in Griffiths C, Lamagni TL, Crowcroft NS, Duckworth G and Rooney C (2004) Trends in MRSA in England and Wales: analysis of morbidity and mortality data for 1993-2002. Health Statistics Quarterly 21, 15-22.

[2] Deaths occurring in 1997-2005.

[3] Excludes neonatal deaths (aged under 28 days).

[4] Total for under five years includes deaths under one year of age.

Customs Officers: South West Region

Mr. Steen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many customs officers *(a)* there were and *(b)* were withdrawn in the South West in each of the last five years. [160746]

Angela Eagle: HM Revenue and Customs currently have approximately 4,500 frontline officers deployed to tackle smuggling at the frontier on an intelligence-led basis where risk is greatest.

HM Revenue and Customs do not disclose the numbers of staff deployed to specific locations, as to do so would provide information of value to those seeking to circumvent HM Revenue and Customs controls, thereby prejudicing the prevention and detection of crime.

Death: Firearms

Mr. Mullin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people died from gunshot wounds in the UK in each of the last 10 years. [160004]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 25 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many people died from gunshot wounds in the UK in each of the last 10 years. I am replying in her absence. (160004)

The table below contain numbers of firearm injury deaths with a Coroner's verdict of accident, suicide, homicide, and undetermined intent in the UK from 1997 to 2006, the latest available year.

Number of deaths from firearm injury,[1] United Kingdom, 1997 to 2006[2]

	Number of deaths
1997	198
1998	229
1999	207
2000	204
2001	193
2002	181
2003	187
2004	191
2005	185
2006[3]	210

[1] The cause of death for firearm injury was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes listed below for the years 1997 to 2000 for England and Wales and Northern Ireland and from 1997 to 1999 for Scotland, and Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes listed below from 2001 onwards for England and Wales and Northern Ireland and from 2000 onwards for Scotland.

ICD-9: E922, E955.0-E955.4, E965.0-E965.4, E970, E985.0-E985.4

ICD-10: W32-W34, X72-X74, X93-X95, Y22-Y24, Y35.0.

Figures include deaths with a Coroner's verdict of accident, suicide, homicide and undetermined intent.

[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

[3] Data are provisional for Northern Ireland.

Death: Weather

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many winter excess deaths there were in *(a)* England and *(b)* the UK in each year since 1996-97. [160273]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 25 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the winter mortality statistics were for (a) England and (b) the UK for the number of winter excess deaths in each year since 1996-97. I am replying in her absence. (160273)

ONS has published figures for excess winter mortality for England on the National Statistics website for winters from 1991/92 onwards. The latest data are currently provisional figures for 2005/06.

Excess winter mortality figures are not produced for the UK. Figures for England can be found via the link below:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Expodata/Spreadsheets/D7089.xls

Departments: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many bottles of champagne his Department purchased in the last 12 months. [159928]

Angela Eagle: Amounts spent annually on alcohol for HM Treasury staff are not recorded separately from other subsistence or hospitality spending and could be disaggregated only at disproportionate cost.

Subsistence and hospitality costs are only incurred within the rules set out in the "Civil Service Management Code" as well as the Treasury's internal guidance

Departments: Overtime

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid to staff in overtime in his Department in each of the last 12 months. [159914]

Angela Eagle: Staff are encouraged to make full use of HM Treasury's flexi-time working arrangement, which includes the option to take accrued excess hours as time off in lieu. However, where this has not been practical, the following table gives the amounts paid in overtime to HM Treasury staff in each of the past 12 months.

Month	*Cost (£000)*
October 2006	30
November 2006	51
December 2006	93
January 2007	98
February 2007	52
March 2007	183
April 2007	30
May 2007	70
June 2007	42
July 2007	37
August 2007	30
September 2007	15

The peaks in December 2006/January 2007 and March 2007 are due to Treasury staff working additional hours in preparation for the pre-Budget report in December 2006 and the annual Budget in March 2007.

Divorce

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many divorces occurred in families with *(a)* one relevant male child and *(b)* one relevant female child in the last year for which data are available. [160493]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 25 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your request for the number of divorces occurring in families with a) one relevant male child and b) one relevant female child, in the last year for which data is available. I am replying in her absence. (160493)

In England and Wales information about the sex of any child of the family is not collected by the Court Service when recording a divorce. I am, therefore, unable to provide you with the statistics you requested.

Drugs: South West Region

Mr. Steen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many customs officers there were covering Devon and Cornwall in each of the last five years; and how many kilos of *(a)* heroin, *(b)* cocaine, *(c)* ecstasy and *(d)* cannabis were seized in Devon and Cornwall in that period. [160642]

Angela Eagle: Nationally, there are approximately 4,500 front-line customs officers deployed to tackle smuggling at the frontier. These officers are deployed on a flexible and intelligence-led basis to wherever the risk is greatest.

HM Revenue and Customs do not release information about seizures below a national level as they consider that to do so would assist those who seek to evade the controls. Information on seizures made by HM Revenue and Customs since 2003 is contained in their annual reports available at www.hmrc.gov.uk

Duty Free Allowances: Tobacco

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what guidance he has issued on the levels of personal import allowances for *(a)* tobacco and *(b)* alcohol in relation to EU member states acceding (i) since and (ii) prior to 1999; and if he will make a statement; [160730]

(2) what steps have been taken to publicise the import allowances for tobacco and alcohol applicable to travellers to EU member states joining the EU *(a)* before and *(b)* since 1999. [160731]

Jane Kennedy: Since completion of the single market in 1993, persons travelling between EU member states have been able to bring with them unlimited quantities of alcohol and tobacco, provided that the product is bought duty paid in the member state of purchase, is for their personal use, and is transported by them. HM Revenue and Customs (formerly HM Customs and Excise) publishes guidance on this in Public Notice 1 "A Customs Guide for Travellers Entering the UK", copies of which are available at all UK ports and airports, on the HMRC website, or by calling the

HMRC National Advice Service. It is also contained in the Customs Allowances posters displayed at all UK ports and airports.

Exceptions to these arrangements were agreed at EU level in 2004 and 2007 as part of transitional arrangements for countries joining the EU at those times. Existing member states were given the option to apply certain quantitative restrictions on personal importations of tobacco from accession countries for as long as those countries' excise duty rates were below minimum EU levels. The UK applies these restrictions, which are identical to those applicable to travellers from non-EU countries, and has publicised this fact widely by amendments to the aforementioned guidance and publicity materials. Additionally, posters were placed in major airports of the accession countries concerned, and adverts were placed in a number of in-flight magazines.

Once the duty rates of the accession countries rise to minimum EU levels, the UK has committed to disapply these restrictions, and has already done so in the case of certain categories of tobacco products from two accession countries.

Employment: Sandwell

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in *(a)* Warley constituency and *(b)* Sandwell metropolitan borough council area were (i) employed (A) full-time and (B) part-time and (ii) unemployed at (1) the latest date for which figures are available and (2) at the same date in each of the last 10 years. [160041]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 25 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions about employment and unemployment. I am replying in her absence. (160041)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles employment statistics for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions. The latest available data from the APS refer to April 2006 to March 2007.

For unitary and local authorities, the ONS produces estimates of total unemployment, following ILO definitions, from a statistical model. Annual estimates for other areas are compiled from the annual local area LFS and the APS following ILO definitions.

Table 1 attached, shows the number of people, aged 16 and over, resident in Sandwell and in Warley parliamentary constituency, who were in full-time and part-time employment for the 12 months ending in February from 1998 to 2004 from the local area LFS, and for the 12 months ending in March from 2005 to 2007 from the APS. The table also shows the numbers unemployed and the unemployment rates for the two areas for the same periods.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. In this case the sample sizes are not sufficient to give an accurate estimate of even the direction of the change over the period.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). Table 2, attached, shows the annual average numbers of people resident in Sandwell and in Warley parliamentary constituency for the same periods as the unemployment estimates provided from the annual LFS and APS.

The JSA claimant counts for Sandwell and Warley are also provided for September 2007 (the latest available data). The numbers of claimants are also shown as percentages of the resident working age populations of the areas.

Table 1: Full-time and part-time employment, and unemployment, in Sandwell local authority and Warley parliamentary constituency

	Sandwell				Warley parliamentary constituency			
	In employment (1000s)		Unemployment		In employment (1000s)		Unemployment	
12 months ending	Full-time	Part-time	Level (1000s)	Rate (%)	Full-time	Part-time	Level (1000s)	Rate (%)
February								
1998	86	24	11	9	25	9	3	9
1999	86	28	12	9	26	11	3	6
2000	91	25	13	10	25	6	3	9
2001	89	24	11	9	27	4	3	10
2002	91	26	10	8	25	6	3	10
2003	85	28	10	8	23	7	3	9
2004	85	30	11	8	22	8	4	11
March								
2005	84	30	10	8	23	7	4	11
2006	87	28	9	7	27	4	3	8
2007	90	24	9	7	27	5	2	7

Note:
Data subject to sampling variability.
Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with particular caution.
Source:
Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population Survey.; Model-based unemployment estimates

Table 2: Number of claimants of jobseeker's allowance and proportions of working age populations for residents of Sandwell local authority and Warley parliamentary constituency

	Sandwell		Warley parliamentary constituency	
Period	Number of claimants	Proportion[1] (%)	Number of claimants	Proportion[1] (%)
Average count for:				
March 1997 to February 1998	10,505	6.2	3,095	6.7
March 1998 to February 1999	9,489	5.6	2,733	5.9
March 1999 to February 2000	9,576	5.7	2,741	6.0

Table 2: Number of claimants of jobseeker's allowance and proportions of working age populations for residents of Sandwell local authority and Warley parliamentary constituency

	Sandwell		Warley parliamentary constituency	
Period	*Number of claimants*	*Proportion[1] (%)*	*Number of claimants*	*Proportion[1] (%)*
Average count for:				
March 2000 to February 2001	8,843	5.2	2,598	5.7
March 2001 to February 2002	8,052	4.7	2,260	4.9
March 2002 to February 2003	7,773	4.6	2,197	4.8
March 2003 to February 2004	7,768	4.5	2,281	5.0
April 2004 to March 2005	7,011	4.1	2,040	4.4
April 2005 to March 2006	8,078	4.7	2,230	4.9
April 2006 to March 2007	8,820	5.1	2,456	5.3
Count for:				
September 2007	7,740	4.4	2,210	4.8

[1] Number of claimants expressed as a percentage of the resident working-age population.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative data

Financial Services: National Income

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of UK gross domestic product came from *(a)* UK financial services and *(b)* institutions in the City of London/Square Mile in the latest period for which figures are available. [160666]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mow, dated 25 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question requesting the percentage of UK gross domestic product that came from a) UK financial services and (b) institutions in the City of London/Square Mile. I am replying in her absence. (160666)

Financial intermediation contributes 7.9% of Gross Value Added (GVA), which is a proxy for GDP. This consists of banking (5.2%), insurance (1.6%) and acts auxiliary to financial intermediation (1.0%).

These figures use weights derived in 2003, which are the latest available.

The Office for National Statistics publishes regional GVA using official statistical geographies known as Nomenclature of Units for Territorial Statistics (NUTS). The NUTS classification does not fully correspond to the institutions in the City of London/Square Mile.

The City of London/Square Mile is in the NUTS3 region of Inner London West but it is not possible to isolate the GVA of the City of London institutions. The latest published NUTS3 data can be found at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14650

Income Tax

Mr. Allen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much would be raised in a year by an additional 1 penny on the income tax rate. [159978]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested was recently published in HM Treasury's tax ready reckoner—"2007 tax ready reckoner and tax reliefs" and is available in the House of Commons Library or the HMT website.

Infant Mortality

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the rate of infant mortality was in *(a)* the five most deprived areas in England and *(b)* England in each year since 1979. [159809]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 25 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the rate of infant mortality was in *(a)* the five most deprived areas in England and *(b)* England in each year since 1979. I am replying in her absence. (159809)

The five most deprived areas in England were identified as the local authority districts (LAD) with highest deprivation according to the English Indices of Deprivation 2004. Hackney had the highest level of deprivation, Tower Hamlets was ranked second, Manchester third, Islington fourth and Liverpool fifth. Infant mortality rates are provided for these same LADs for all the years.

The attached table shows infant mortality rates for the five most deprived areas (Hackney, Tower Hamlets, Manchester, Islington and Liverpool) and England from 1979 to 2005 (the latest year available).

Infant mortality rates for England and the five most deprived areas in England, 1979-2005

	Hackney	*Tower Hamlets*	*Manchester*	*Islington*	*Liverpool*	*England*
1979	11.7	19.1	18.5	17.6	11.4	12.8
1980	16.0	12.3	16.8	14.0	14.5	12.0
1981	12.9	13.7	11.0	11.5	10.7	10.9
1982	11.0	14.9	15.4	12.8	8.7	10.8
1983	11.8	10.7	11.2	10.6	9.7	10.0
1984	10.5	10.8	9.8	11.6	7.1	9.4
1985	11.5	7.3	9.6	7.3	8.1	9.2
1986	11.6	8.7	11.1	8.8	11.5	9.5
1987	12.9	11.5	8.1	7.9	7.8	9.1
1988	9.3	11.6	10.0	8.9	7.0	9.1

Infant mortality rates for England and the five most deprived areas in England, 1979-2005

	Hackney	*Tower Hamlets*	*Manchester*	*Islington*	*Liverpool*	*England*
1989	9.6	9.2	11.5	8.5	7.6	8.4
1990	8.8	7.7	8.9	11.0	6.7	7.9
1991	8.7	8.4	9.0	6.9	7.0	7.3
1992	8.3	7.9	8.4	9.1	5.2	6.5
1993	8.4	4.9	8.3	5.7	4.3	6.3
1994	11.4	6.6	6.8	5.0	4.8	6.1
1995	9.1	8.7	9.6	6.8	7.1	6.1
1996	7.4	6.4	7.2	4.8	6.5	6.0
1997	10.5	5.6	8.9	3.1	7.2	5.9
1998	6.1	7.6	6.7	4.3	6.9	5.6
1999	9.1	6.0	9.5	8.8	6.8	5.7
2000	6.2	3.9	8.7	5.5	7.0	5.6
2001	7.8	5.2	9.6	6.0	6.7	5.4
2002	9.3	6.0	9.0	4.4	6.1	5.2
2003	6.9	4.8	6.5	7.9	4.7	5.3
2004	3.4	4.2	8.2	7.5	5.7	5.0
2005	5.6	4.3	7.2	5.5	8.1	5.0

Notes
1 Infant mortality rates per 1,000 live births.
2 Rates based on fewer than 20 deaths are shown in italics.
3 From 2002 onwards City of London LB is included in the rates for Hackney LB.
4 2006 figures on a comparable basis are not yet available.

Local Strategic Partnerships: Finance

Mr. Allen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what funding will be allocated to local strategic partnerships for the financial year 2008-09. [157613]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

No funding is specifically allocated for use by local strategic partnerships (LSPs). Local partners are individually responsible for any funding allocated to them, and for resourcing their LSP.

National Insurance Fund

Chris Grayling: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was in the national insurance fund in each month in each of the last 10 years. [157170]

Jane Kennedy: End year balance figures are published in the national insurance fund annual accounts.

The monthly balance on the GB National Insurance Fund from September 1996 to March 2006 is shown in the following table. 2005-06 is the last year for which audited accounts of the NI Fund are available.

£ billion

Month	*1996-97*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-3*	*2003-04*	*2004-5*	*2005-06*
April	—	7.9	9.4	12.4	13.5	19.3	22.4	24.4	26.5	28.8
May	—	7.7	9.5	11.0	14.7	19.9	22.6	24.9	25.8	29.8
June	—	7.5	9.5	12.7	14.6	20.0	22.9	24.5	25.4	29.5
July	—	7.6	10.4	12.6	15.2	20.1	23.8	26.1	27.2	30.7
August	—	7.2	10.9	13.1	15.2	19.8	23.6	24.7	28.0	30.9
September	6.4	7.2	11.2	13.0	15.2	20.7	23.3	23.1	27.9	30.1
October	6.8	7.3	11.2	12.3	15.1	20.6	23.1	22.9	27.1	30.3
November	6.2	6.7	11.2	12.5	16.0	20.9	23.2	23.0	26.7	30.4
December	5.5	6.2	10.4	11.8	16.0	21.1	22.4	22.2	25.2	29.4
January	6.7	7.1	11.3	12.8	17.1	21.3	22.6	24.2	25.3	31.8
February	6.6	7.8	11.5	13.4	18.1	22.6	23.8	25.5	25.6	33.3
March	6.7	8.5	11.6	13.4	18.1	21.5	24.4	26.6	27.8	34.8

The balances for 2006-07 are not provided as the accounts for that year have not been finalised and are subject to audit by the NAO at this time.

The NI fund operates within the Government's fiscal rules and any surplus is invested to help fund public services.

Productivity

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the average percentage change in the productivity of *(a)* the financial services sector and *(b)* the economy as a whole in each year since 1998. [160159]

Kitty Ussher: There is no official estimate for the average productivity change in the financial services sector. A more detailed explanation can be found in the Productivity Handbook published by the Office for National Statistics

www.statistics.gov.uk

The Treasury's latest assessment of trend productivity growth over recent years is set out in Table A2 of the 2007 pre-Budget report. Data on whole economy output per worker and output per hour worked for each year since 1998 are available from the Office for National Statistics.

Revenue and Customs: Theft

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many laptops have been stolen from HM Revenue and Customs in the last 12 months; [159919]

(2) what disciplinary action has been taken further to the theft of a laptop computer from HM Revenue and Customs in September; and if he will make a statement on the rules concerning keeping laptop computers in cars by HM Revenue and Customs; [160237]

(3) what type of data was held on the laptop stolen from HM Revenue and Customs in September 2007; how many records were stored on the laptop; to which financial institutions the records applied; and to how many individuals the records applied. [160248]

Jane Kennedy: 41 laptops were stolen between October 2006 and September 2007, 16 of them during a break-in at one of HMRC's offices.

Some 9,500 laptops are issued to HMRC staff who work away from their offices. The Department takes all thefts very seriously and acts appropriately in accordance with its security procedures.

I cannot comment on staff disciplinary matters or disclose information relating to the data held on stolen laptops.

Unemployment: Glasgow

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many unemployed *(a)* male and *(b)* female young people live in Glasgow, East constituency; and what percentage each figure represents; [160055]

(2) how many unemployed adult *(a)* males and *(b)* females live in Glasgow, East constituency; and what percentage each figure represents. [160056]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 25 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Questions about unemployment. I am replying in her absence. (160055, 160056)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of unemployment from the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1, attached, shows the numbers unemployed and the unemployment rates for youth and adult males and females in the Glasgow East constituency for the 12 months ending March 2007 (the latest period for which data are available). The unemployment rate is defined as the number unemployed as the percentage of the number of economically active persons in the age and sex group of interest. Table 1 also shows the number unemployed as the percentage of all persons in the age and sex group. In this table youth is defined as those aged 16 to 24 and adult refers to those aged 25 or more.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in a small geographical area, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas on numbers of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (ISA). Table 2, attached, shows the average numbers of young and adult males and females resident in the Glasgow East constituency, claiming JSA between April 2006 and March 2007.

Table 2 also shows the numbers of young and adult males and females claiming JSA in September 2007 (the latest period for which data are available). For JSA claimants, youth is defined as those aged 18 to 24, and adult refers to those aged 25 or more.

Table 1: Unemployed persons, by age and sex, resident in the Glasgow East parliamentary constituency, April 2006 to March 2007

	Level (1000s)	*Rate*[1]	*Percentage*[2]
Females			
Aged 16 to 24	[3]	[3]	[3]
Aged 25+	1,000	6	3
Males			
Aged 16 to 24	[3]	[3]	[3]
Aged 25+	2	10	6

[1] Unemployed as a percentage of the number of economically active persons in relevant age and sex group.
[2] Unemployed as percentage of the total number in relevant age and sex group
[3] Sample too small to provide estimate
Note:
Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
Source:
Annual population survey

Table 2: Number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance by age and sex, resident in the Glasgow East parliamentary constituency

	Average count April 2006 to March 2007	*Count in September 2007*
Females		
Aged 16 to 24	225	205
Aged 25+	315	315
Males		
Aged 16 to 24	565	465
Aged 25+	1,360	1,255

Notes:
1. Claimant count data by age includes computerised claims only.
2. Dataset rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative data

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many under 25 year olds were not in employment, education or training in *(a)* England, *(b)* Northamptonshire and *(c)* Kettering in each of the last five years. [160598]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 25 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question about young people not in education, training or employment. I am replying in her absence. (160598)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics for local areas from the annual local area Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation (ILO) definitions.

The table attached shows the numbers of 16 to 24 year olds not in full-time education, employment or training, resident in the Kettering constituency, Northamptonshire county and England. Estimates are provided from the local area LFS for the 12 months ending in February, for 2003 and 2004, and from the APS for the 12 months ending in March, for 2005 to 2007. The table also shows these numbers as the percentage of all 16 to 24 year olds in the areas, for each year, which allows changes to be seen in the context of changing population numbers.

Estimates for a subset of the population in a small geographical area are based on very small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. Changes over time should be treated with particular caution.

Persons aged 16 to 24 who are not in full-time education, employment or training resident in the Kettering constituency, Northamptonshire county and England

Thousand

	Kettering		Northamptonshire		England	
12 months ending:	*Number*	*Percentage of all 16 to 24-year olds*	*Number*	*Percentage of all 16 to 24-year olds*	*Number*	*Percentage of all 16 to 24-year olds*
February 2003	[1]—	[1]—	7	12	865	16
February 2004	[1]—	[1]—	12	17	897	16
March 2005	1	18	10	15	919	17
March 2006	2	13	13	18	969	17
March 2007	[1]—	[1]—	13	17	1,011	18

[1] Sample size too small to provide estimates.

Notes:

1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
2. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with caution.

Source:

Annual local area Labour Force Survey; Annual Population survey.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether there is a value at which a tax credit overpayment would be considered unreasonable in a situation in which there was no official error and the claimant had notified HM Revenue and Customs of the relevant change of circumstance. [160363]

Jane Kennedy: HMRC's policy on recovering overpayments is set out in Code of Practice 26: "What happens if we pay you too much tax credit?"

I announced to the House on 18 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 944, that as part of that, HMRC will be replacing the reasonable belief test with a clearer test that will set out customers' responsibilities for checking factual information.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the largest tax credit overpayment waived was in the financial year *(a)* 2006-07, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2004-05 and *(d)* 2003-04; [160365]

(2) how many tax credits overpayments waived were worth *(a)* under £1,000, *(b)* £1,000 to £1,999, *(c)* £2,000 to £2,999, *(d)* £3,000 to £3,999, *(e)* £4,000 to £4,999, *(f)* £5,000 to £5,999, *(g)* £6,000 to £6,999, *(h)* £7,000 to £7,999, *(i)* £8,000 to £8,999, *(j)* £9,000 to £9,999 and *(k)* over £10,000 in the financial year (i) 2003-04, (ii) 2004-05, (iii) 2005-06 and (iv) 2006-07. [160366]

Jane Kennedy: The information would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions one unit of HM Revenue and Customs has indicated an intention to take court action, a claimant who had already reached a repayment agreement with another unit of HM Revenue and Customs in relation to a tax credit overpayment. [160367]

Jane Kennedy: The information is not available. Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs has processes in place to prevent different actions taking place on the same debt and if this occurred in error would only record such an incident on the individual case.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on how many occasions tax credit claimants who had submitted documentary evidence of their wage have had their income registered as nil by HM Revenue and Customs and subsequently been overpaid. [160368]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is not available. Guidance notes included in tax credits claim packs and notes which accompany annual declaration forms provide step by step instructions telling customers how to calculate their income for tax credits purposes and where to record it on their forms.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether a programme similar to that for Iraqi staff will be established to recognise local Afghan staff working for the British Government in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [157122]

Dr. Howells: Locally engaged Afghan staff working for our armed forces and civilian missions in Afghanistan have made an invaluable contribution to the UK's efforts to help support the spread of security, stability and development in their country. We acknowledge their contribution with gratitude. But given the difference in circumstances between them and their colleagues in Iraq, there are no plans for a similar scheme of assistance.

Arctic

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with countries with a territorial interest in the Arctic on potential claims; and if he will make a statement. [159483]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not had any discussions with countries with a territorial interest in the Arctic on the subject of potential claims which they may make in the region. States parties to the UN convention on the law of the sea may be entitled to claim an extended continental shelf beyond their territorial waters, subject to certain geological conditions, as defined in the convention.

British Overseas Territories

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the areas where the UK has plans to stake territorial claims; and if he will make a statement. [159989]

Meg Munn: The UK has so far made one claim to the UN Commission on the limits of the continental shelf (CLCS) for the extension of the continental shelf under Article 76 of the UN convention of the law of the sea. We are also considering lodging up to four more claims before the right to do so expires in May 2009.

The UK has submitted a claim, jointly with France, Ireland and Spain, for an area of the Bay of Biscay, and this is currently under consideration by the CLCS. The UK is also considering the potential submission of claims for the areas around the Ascension Islands, off the British Antarctic Territory, around the Falkland Islands and South Georgia, and in the Hatton/Rockall area.

Burma: Drugs

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the impact of the increase in poppy cultivation in Burma on peace and security in the region; and if he will make a statement. [159561]

David Miliband: The UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reported an increase in poppy cultivation in Burma of 29 per cent. in 2007, from 21,500 hectares to 27,700 hectares. This follows six years of decrease. Cultivation is concentrated in South Shan State, which accounts for 90 per cent. of opium grown in Burma. Most of the poppy-growing areas are outside government control.

The UK has not made any assessment on the impact on peace and security in the region. However, UNODC assess that where drug-growing areas and insecurity overlap, the activity of criminal groups can add to instability by trying to control poppy farming and using drugs to fund their operations. The need for sustained alternative development programmes for the poor communities to help them turn to a legal income is therefore essential to ensure that cultivation in Burma is reduced.

Burma: Economic Policy

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations his Department has made to the governments of *(a)* China, *(b)* Russia, *(c)* India and *(d)* France on their economic ties with the Burmese military government. [160610]

Meg Munn: We regularly raise our concerns about Burma with international partners, explaining why we support targeted economic measures to press the regime to change policy and highlighting the wider benefits of a democratic and stable Burma for the region. We have raised the situation with the Chinese, Russian, Indian and French governments. They are aware of our concerns regarding Burma.

Burma: Overseas Trade

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what trade exists between the UK and Burma; what the value is of such trade; and if he will make a statement. [160973]

Meg Munn: We do not actively monitor business activities in Burma. However, we do follow reports on such activities produced by the UN, non-governmental organisations and other organisations. We monitor the level of UK corporate activities through statistics from the Office for National Statistics and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, which show that trade and investment in Burma has fallen in recent years.

In terms of total imports of goods from Burma, the UK currently ranks second in the EU after Germany. However, the value of imports from Burma to the UK halved between 2004 and 2005. In the first eight months of 2007 the UK imported £19 million worth of goods from Burma and exported £2 million.

The Government have a long-standing policy of discouraging British firms from trading with, or investing in, Burma. We offer no commercial services to companies wishing to trade or invest there.

The UK has been working hard with its partners in the EU on further restrictions on commercial engagement with Burma to reduce funding sources available to the regime. EU Foreign Ministers met on 15 October and agreed to strengthen measures against the regime. The new measures include an export ban on equipment to the sectors of logs and timber and mining of metals, minerals, precious and semi precious stones; an import ban of products of the sectors mentioned before; and an investment ban in these sectors.

Burma: Politics and Government

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on the outcome of his meetings with the Indian Minister for External Affairs on 3 October and the Chinese Foreign Minister on 29 September on the situation in Burma. [160839]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met with Indian Minister for External Affairs, Mr. Prunab Mukherjee, on 3 October, to

discuss the situation in Burma, among other issues. The External Affairs Minister agreed that a process of political reform and national reconciliation must begin in Burma to bring stability and prosperity to the country.

I too raised Burma with the Indian Minister of State, Mr. E Ahamed, and I underlined the important role India could play in persuading the Burmese regime to embrace reconciliation.

My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister also raised Burma in a telephone conversation with the Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, as did my noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, during his recent visit to India.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met Chinese Foreign Minister Yang on 29 September in the margins of the United Nations General Assembly. He underlined the need to work closely with China on the issue of Burma, including giving full support to Professor Gambari's mission.

China is in a unique position to help positive political change in Burma. To that end, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister discussed Burma with Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao. My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary have kept in touch since with their Chinese opposite numbers by phone and by letter.

Defence: Exports

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many representations the Government have received from UK ambassadors and high commissioners since 25 July on arrangements in Government for defence exports. [160065]

Dr. Howells: The Government have received one such representation since 25 July.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Security

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to guarantee the security of the civilian Tutsi community of eastern DRC during and after the military operations in the area. [159696]

Meg Munn: We continue to press the Government of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) for a peaceful solution to the crisis in the east of the country to avert further humanitarian suffering.

My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, met a delegation of advisers to President Kabila in London on 13 September and spoke to President Kabila at the UN on 26 September. On both occasions he encouraged the Congolese Government to continue to look for a political solution to the problems affecting the east of the country rather than take a solely military approach, and to ensure the security of the local population.

The UK is the largest donor of humanitarian aid to DRC, which is helping to alleviate some of the impact on civilians of the current insecurity in the east.

Departments: Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what guidance his Department follows on the maximum time taken to respond to hon. Members' correspondence; and what performance against that target was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [158595]

Meg Munn: I refer the hon. Member to the reply my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster gave to him on 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 45W.

Departments: Manpower

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what percentage of employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by his Department are above state retirement age. [158949]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) employed 40 staff (0.65 per cent. of the total workforce) who were above the state retirement age on 1 October 2006. In addition FCO Directorates and overseas Missions recruit contract or agency staff for specific tasks or projects. Some of these staff are above the state retirement age; but we do not hold records for them centrally. To collate the figures would incur disproportionate cost.

Wilton Park, an executive agency of the FCO, employs no staff over the state retirement age. Appointments to non-departmental public bodies supported by the FCO are made independently of the FCO. We do not hold staff records for them.

The FCO is committed to promoting age equality in the workplace. We were amongst the first Department in Whitehall to abolish mandatory retirement ages for all staff below the Senior Management Structure/ Senior Civil Service (for whom a retirement age of 65 had been set centrally) in 2006.

Departments: Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many citizens' juries were arranged for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies in each year since 1997; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the cost was of each. [160022]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not arranged any citizens' juries since 1997.

EU External Relations: Commonwealth

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to improve EU-Commonwealth relations; and if he will make a statement. [160046]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary will continue to support strongly the work done by the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth to increase contacts and interaction between the EU and the Commonwealth, including on issues such as election observation, trade and good governance.

EU Reform: Treaties

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the most significant five differences are between the Constitutional Treaty under consideration in 2005 and the Reform Treaty agreed at Lisbon. [160833]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The draft Treaty establishing a Constitution for Europe is now defunct. The inter-governmental conference mandate records the agreement of all 27 Heads that:

"The constitutional concept...is abandoned".

The Constitutional Treaty was legally unprecedented. It would have abolished the EU and refounded it under a single, constitutional order. The reform treaty by contrast, amends the existing treaties—just like the Single European Act, Maastricht, Nice and Amsterdam.

The Government have secured extra safeguards on each of the four red lines set out ahead of the June European Council. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary wrote to the chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee on 11 and 18 October setting out how the Government's four red lines are met in the latest draft of the reform treaty.

These letters have been placed in the Library of the House.

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what information has been available to him to enable him to assess popular support for a referendum on the proposed European Treaty. [160974]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not commissioned any polls on this issue.

European Union: Publicity

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent action the Government has taken to inform the public about the European Union and the UK's membership of it. [159065]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has a range of tools to inform the public about the EU and the UK's membership of it. The FCO's website at www.europe.gov.uk is a comprehensive source of information. A number of FCO officials and Ministers have recently launched blogs on the website, to explain their day-to-day dealings in European affairs. We also produce publications, such as our "Guide to the EU", which is available free of charge, upon request.

The FCO is also involved in a number of activities to raise awareness and debate on EU issues. For example, the FCO is working with the UK Representation of the European Commission and the UK Office of the European Parliament on the "Learning Together" project, launched in March 2007, to increase partnerships between UK schools and their counterparts in Europe.

HMS Sussex

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's objectives are in the negotiations with Spain on the location and subsequent excavation of the sunken British warship Sussex off the coast of Gibraltar. [160163]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Ministry of Defence has concluded a partnering agreement with the US company, Odyssey Marine Exploration, for the archaeological excavation and recovery of artefacts from the wreck of the Sussex. The company believes it has located the wreck on the seabed in the Straits of Gibraltar. The next stage of the operation will be the definitive identification of the wreck site.

The Government are not currently involved in any negotiations with Spain on this matter.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to ensure that the gold onboard the sunken warship, the Sussex, is not claimed by the Spanish government. [160164]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The wreck in question has not yet been confirmed to be that of the Sussex and its cargo has also still to be identified. If the sunken vessel is identified as the Sussex, the Government of Spain has informed us that it will respect international laws of sovereign immunity and lay no claim to the wreck. We also understand that Spain has no intention of investigating the wreck site.

Iraq: Casualties

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Prime Minister's response to the hon. Member for Islington, North (Jeremy Corbyn) following his Oral Statement on Iraq on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 33, what the evidential basis was for not accepting the figure quoted by the hon. Member on the number of Iraqi civilian deaths since the 2003 invasion; and what his estimate is of the number of such deaths. [159486]

Dr. Howells: The Government do not collate figures for civilian casualties in Iraq. The Government of Iraq are best placed to monitor the numbers of Iraqi civilian casualties. We continue to believe that there are no comprehensive or reliable figures for deaths since March 2003.

Iraq: Christianity

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the welfare of Christians in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [160473]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Christians in Iraq have been badly affected by the high levels of violence in the country. We are aware of recent threats received by Christians from extremists in certain areas of Baghdad. We have raised this with the Iraqi Government who, with the

backing of coalition forces, is taking measures to increase security in those areas. We will continue to monitor the situation.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs where and when he raised the concerns of Sir Mike Jackson on US policy in Iraq with his US counterpart; and if he will publish the minutes of the meeting. [160174]

Mr. Jim Murphy: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed the concerns of Sir Mike Jackson about US policy in Iraq with his US counterpart.

Iraq: Reconstruction

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what initiatives are being pursued by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the British embassy in Baghdad to encourage investment by British companies and British nationals in reconstruction and other economic activity in Iraq; [157100]

(2) what categories of assistance are available from the British embassy in Baghdad to encourage and promote direct investment in Iraq by British companies and British nationals; what such investments have been made over the last 12 months; and what assistance was provided by the British embassy in each case; [157101]

(3) what estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* investment and *(b)* contractual work in Iraq involving British companies over the period since formal hostilities were declared to be over. [157102]

Dr. Howells: UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) and Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) officials in the UK, Iraq and Jordan, advise British companies on trade and investment opportunities in Iraq, as well as general economic, political and security developments. Details of Iraqi government tenders and other contracts are published on the UKTI website and FCO officials in Iraq lobby on behalf of British companies pursuing specific contracts, when required. UKTI officials in the UK support inward visit programmes, seminars and other events with a commercial focus: enabling British companies to engage directly with Iraqi Ministers and officials responsible for Government contracts.

UKTI officials in our embassy in Amman carry out a significant amount of Iraq-based work through contacts with leading Iraqi companies and business people based in Jordan. The UKTI team in Amman also maintains close contact with the World Bank and other international financial institutions working in Iraq that are based in Jordan, and has supported an annual British company presence at the Rebuild Iraq trade exhibition. UKTI officials based in both Amman and Baghdad have participated in two British trade missions to the Kurdistan region over the past year, with the support of FCO staff in the region.

Over recent years, UKTI and FCO officials have supported a large number of British companies interested in trade and investment opportunities in Iraq. However, records covering private investment by British companies in Iraq are not kept and it is, therefore, not possible either to summarise the private investments made over the past 12 months, or estimate the proportion of direct investment or contractual work involving British companies since formal hostilities were declared to be over.

Iraq: Resettlement

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what definition he uses of locally employed staff; and if he will make a statement. [160688]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office's definition of local staff is staff who are recruited locally and employed overseas to work in British Diplomatic Missions in a variety of roles.

Islam

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has received representations from governments abroad on the publication of material in the UK critical of Wahhabism. [160829]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Saudi Ambassador to London wrote to my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett) then Foreign Secretary on 17 January 2007 to express concern about the content of the Channel Four's Dispatches Programme: "Undercover Mosques". However, we have not received any specific representation from foreign Governments about the publication of material in the UK that is critical of Wahhabism.

Occupied Territories

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what assessment has been made of the likely impact of Israel's declaration that Gaza is a hostile entity on the humanitarian situation in Gaza, including on the supply of water, power, fuel and food supplies; [160624]

(2) what representations the Government has made to Israel on its declaration that Gaza is a hostile entity. [160625]

Dr. Howells: We are concerned about reports that the Israeli Government may reduce services to Gaza.

Israel has expressed its commitment to avoiding a humanitarian crisis in Gaza and we continue to call on them to maintain this and ensure that their actions are in accordance with international law. Innocent Palestinians should not suffer because of the actions of violent extremists.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact of the withdrawal of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement from the Unity Government on the Sudanese Comprehensive Peace Deal; and if he will make a statement. [160614]

Meg Munn: Parties in both the north and south have re-affirmed their commitment to full implementation of

the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) since the Sudan People's Liberation Movement (SPLM) withdrew from the Government of National Unity. However, the SPLM has not yet returned to government. We are urging both sides to enable the SPLM to resume their place and to complete implementation of the CPA as soon as possible.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to mediate with the different parties in Sudan's Government of National Unity (GNU); what reports he has received on the effect of the recent reshuffle of Ministers on *(a)* the viability of the GNU and *(b)* the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, including the points of issue in the ongoing dispute; and if he will make a statement. [160032]

Meg Munn *[holding answer 24 October 2007]:* We are working with both sides to enable the Sudan People's Liberation Movement to resume fully their place in the national government and to resume serious implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement as soon as possible.

Ukraine: Work Permits

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether people entering the UK from the Ukraine for the purposes of the performing arts are required to pay the revised charge for a work visa. [160639]

Dr. Howells: A new migration and visa fee structure was introduced on 1 April. People entering the UK from the Ukraine for the purposes of the performing arts were required to pay the revised charge of £200 for a work visa from this date. Those performing at permit-free festivals must pay a visa fee of £99. This new fee structure is intended to meet a number of objectives, to provide sufficient revenue to meet the costs of an effective management of the end-to-end migration system, to reflect more appropriately the value attributed to specific categories of entitlement by migrants and visitors, but also to set fees at levels which maintain the UK's ability to attract people in an increasingly competitive international environment.

UN General Assembly: Nuclear Disarmament

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs at what level his Department is represented at the ongoing 62nd session of the United Nations General Assembly; what proposals the UK will present before the committee dealing with nuclear disarmament; and if he will make a statement. [160819]

Dr. Howells: The United Kingdom is represented at the United Nations General Assembly First Committee by John Duncan, our ambassador for Multilateral Arms Control and Disarmament and Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament at Geneva. Ambassador Duncan is supported by colleagues based in Geneva, New York and London. Within First Committee the UK traditionally makes common statements with our EU partners. Accordingly, the EU delivered a statement in the nuclear weapons debate on 17 October this year. The EU reiterated its support for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament in accordance with article VI of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and stressed the need for an overall reduction of the global stockpile of nuclear weapons, in particular by those countries which possess the largest arsenals. The EU urged all states to sign and ratify the comprehensive nuclear-test ban treaty without delay and to begin negotiation without preconditions on a fissile material cut-off treaty in the conference on disarmament. The EU also called on all states concerned to take appropriate practical measures in order to reduce the risk of accidental nuclear war.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK will make a statement at the United Nations General Assembly on *(a)* the operating status of nuclear weapons, *(b)* renewed determination towards the total elimination of nuclear weapons and *(c)* the World Nuclear Weapons convention; and if he will make a statement. [160820]

Dr. Howells: Within the United Nations General Assembly First Committee the UK traditionally makes common statements with our EU partners. Accordingly, the EU delivered a statement in the nuclear weapons debate on 17 October this year. The EU reiterated its support for the pursuit of nuclear disarmament in accordance with article VI of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and stressed the need for an overall reduction of the global stockpile of nuclear weapons, in particular by those countries which possess the largest arsenals. The EU also called on all states concerned to take appropriate practical measures in order to reduce the risk of accidental nuclear war. There are a number of resolutions that will be voted upon during the First Committee that relate to the issues raised. The possibility of the UK delivering a national explanation of vote on some of these resolutions is currently being considered.

Western Sahara

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on Government policy on the Western Sahara. [160429]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The UK regards the status of Western Sahara as undetermined, pending UN efforts to find a solution. To this end, the UK fully supports the efforts of the UN Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy to the Western Sahara, Peter van Walsum, to assist the parties to achieve a just, lasting and mutually acceptable political solution, which will provide for the self determination of the people of Western Sahara.

The UN Security Council adopted UN Security Council Resolution 1754 on 30 April 2007, which extended the mandate of the UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara. There are no plans for a referendum to be held in the near future. However, the resolution also called for both sides to enter into negotiations without preconditions. The UK welcomed two rounds of negotiations between the parties, hosted by the UN in Manhasset, New York, on 18-19 June and 10-11 August. A further round of negotiations is due to take place later in the year.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 29 October 2007

WALES

Agriculture: Compensation

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions he has had with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Welsh Assembly Government on policies in England and Wales on sharing the costs of outbreaks of animal diseases between the agricultural industry and the public purse. [160635]

Mr. Hain: I have had discussions with ministerial colleagues at both the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Welsh Assembly Government over this issue to ensure Welsh farmers' interests are represented fully.

Certain functions under the Animal Health Act 1981, including disease control functions were transferred to the National Assembly for Wales under the Transfer of Functions Order 2004 (SI 2004/3044).

DEFRA have agreed to make payments on behalf of the National Assembly for Wales for animals killed and property seized due to foot and mouth disease. However, this does not extend to specific Welsh schemes to protect animal welfare or to support farmers during disease outbreaks. Such schemes remain the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government.

Departments: Catering

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what proportion of each type of food served in his Department in the last 12 months was of *(a)* British and *(b)* Welsh origin. [160734]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office does not have any in-house catering services, external caterers supply food at our events. While we ask them to supply food that is either British or Welsh in both origin and theme we do not gather information on the proportion. This could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what efficiency savings his Department was required to make as part of its Spending Review 2004 (SR04) targets; what efficiency projects have been undertaken in the Department in pursuit of those targets; on what date each was initiated; and how much each was predicted to contribute to the SR04 target. [160605]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office position in relation to SR 04 is set out in chapter 5 of my 2005 departmental annual report, a copy of which is available from the Library.

Progress since then is detailed within subsequent annual reports, which can be accessed from the Library or via our website:

www.walesoffice.gov.uk

Departments: Disabled

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales which buildings occupied by his Department *(a)* are and *(b)* are not fully accessible to disabled people; and if he will make a statement. [161164]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office fully occupies one building in London and leases office space in Cardiff. Both buildings have disabled access.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales whether any of his Department's special advisers have declared a conflict of interest. [160777]

Mr. Hain: Neither of the special advisers in the Wales Office have declared a conflict of interest.

Departments: Retirement

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many employees in his Department applied to continue to work beyond state retirement age in the latest year or part thereof for which figures are available; and how many of those applications were successful. [161281]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office has a few staff at retirement age. For reasons of privacy no details are given, in line with Cabinet Office guidance.

Departments: Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many and what percentage of Questions tabled to his Department for answer on a named day received a substantive reply on the day named in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [161352]

Mr. Hain: The Wales Office have received 21 named day questions in the last 12 months and all have received a substantive reply on the day named.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Departments: Fish

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what consideration the Refreshment Department has given to introducing a sustainable seafood procurement policy. [160952]

Nick Harvey: As stated in a previous reply of 20 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 575-6W, the Refreshment Department is committed to responsibly sourcing fish from well-managed and sustainable fisheries, and is developing firmer procurement policies in this area. The contract for the supply of fresh fish and shellfish is scheduled to be re-tendered early in the new year and assessment of the sustainable seafood sourcing and supply policies of bidders will be included among the evaluation criteria. The Sea Fish Industry Authority (Seafish) is advising the department in the development of the contract specifications relating to sustainability.

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what quantity of cod from the North Sea or Eastern Baltic was procured by the Refreshment Department in 2006. [160953]

Nick Harvey: No record is kept of the country or region of origin of produce purchased by the Refreshment Department, so it is not possible to answer the question in the terms asked. However, the department's standing instructions to its nominated fish suppliers is that cod should not be sourced from stocks that are depleted and fishing levels are unsustainable. Suppliers have confirmed that no cod from the North Sea or Eastern Baltic is currently supplied to the Refreshment Department.

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission which companies have contracts to supply fish to the Refreshment Department; and when those contracts will end. [160954]

Nick Harvey: The Refreshment Department currently holds contracts with three fish and shellfish suppliers: Chamberlain and Thelwell Ltd., Howes Brothers Ltd., (both operating out of Billingsgate, London) and H. Forman and Sons (London). In accordance with EU procurement regulations, these supply contracts were awarded following a competitive tender. Contracts were awarded for an initial three year period until May 2006, extended for a maximum period of two years while the contract is re-tendering in early 2008.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Stipends

33. **Michael Jabez Foster:** To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the Church Commissioners what the average stipend is for *(a)* male and *(b)* female incumbents; and whether male and female incumbents in the same diocese receive the same stipend. [160987]

Sir Stuart Bell: The overall average stipend for male clergy of incumbent status is £20,952; the overall average for female clergy of incumbent status is £20,878.

Each diocese sets its own policy on the application of national recommendations.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

National Audit Office

Norman Baker: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission if he will make a statement on the progress of the Commission's investigation into the National Audit Office's compliance with best corporate practice. [160986]

Mr. Alan Williams: The Commission's review is into the corporate governance of the NAO, and will take account of the need to retain the Comptroller & Auditor General's independence. The Commission announced terms of reference for the review on 11 October, and arrangements are being made for the review to be carried out. The Government announced on Thursday last its willingness to include statutory changes in the forthcoming Constitutional Reform Bill if necessary. Further details of the review will be announced shortly.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departments: Retirement

Andrew Selous: To ask the Leader of the House how many employees in her Office applied to continue to work beyond state retirement age in the latest year or part thereof for which figures are available; and how many of those applications were successful. [161292]

Helen Goodman: The Leader of the House of Commons Office forms part of the Cabinet Office. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 25 October 2007 by the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster.

Departments: Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Leader of the House how many and what percentage of questions tabled to her for answer on a named day received a substantive reply on the day named in the last 12 months. [161363]

Helen Goodman: The figures of the Leader of the House of Commons Office for the 2005-06 Session show that 100 per cent. of the 71 named day questions tabled were answered on the date specified.

In the last 12 months (since 24 October 2006) 48 named day questions (100 per cent.) were answered on the named day.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Leader of the House when she will reply to the letter sent to her in her capacity as Lord Privy Seal dated 20 September from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Dr. Yasmin Zalzala. [161193]

Ms Harman: My office has no record of having received my right hon. Friend's letter dated 20 September 2007. I understand that another copy is being sent and I will ensure it receives my urgent consideration.

Recess

Mr. Pope: To ask the Leader of the House (1) on what basis the week commencing 11 February 2008 was chosen as the constituency recess week; [161024]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of schools which have half-term breaks during the constituency recess week commencing 11 February 2008; [161025]

(3) what discussions she had with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Children, Schools and Families before choosing the week commencing 11 February 2008 as the constituency recess week. [161026]

Helen Goodman: School holidays are taken into account when preparing the Commons calendar as far as is possible in the absence of a standard school year. A sample of half term dates from across the UK were analysed to ensure that the calendar reflected these factors. Other time demands, including the dates of the party conference season, are also considered. No discussions have been held with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Children, Schools and Families but the calendar was subject to consultation through the usual channels.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Minimum Voting Age

34. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what consideration the Electoral Commission is giving to measures to ensure that electoral registers are kept up to date. [160988]

Peter Viggers: The Commission informs me that it issues guidance to Electoral Registration Officers on this matter, and will, in 2008, set performance standards for Electoral Registration Officers to support best practice in the delivery of electoral registration functions.

Information: British Citizens Abroad

35. **Mr. Evans:** To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what steps the Electoral Commission has taken to inform British citizens living abroad about their rights to vote in UK general elections. [160989]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it is currently running a campaign to encourage British citizens living abroad to register to vote. The campaign includes online advertising, public relations activity, a mailing to British people living overseas and the distribution of information via British embassies and high commissions.

SCOTLAND

Absent Voting

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland why he advised DRS of a change in design in respect of ballot papers on 17 April 2007; what assessment was made at the time of the likely impact on the timescale involved for the subsequent issuing of postal ballots; what steps he took to advise returning officers of the changes and of the potential impact on the issuing of the postal ballot packs; and if he will make a statement. [161410]

David Cairns: There was no involvement by Scotland Office Ministers in any change to the design of ballot papers on 17 April 2007. The message sent to Returning Officers on 17 April by officials reported a technical point from the e-counting supplier about the system's capacity to meet the statutory requirements and to advise Returning Officers on the exercise of their legal discretion to adjust one aspect of the design feature of the ballot paper, namely the type-case to be used for candidates names.

Departments: Press

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department has spent on newspapers, magazines and periodicals in each year since 1997. [154635]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. The Office provides corporate services, such as the payment of invoices, to the Office of the Advocate General. Separate figures for newspapers and magazines for each Office are not recorded; and the cost of periodicals is subsumed within the overall library costs, such as the purchase of books. Expenditure by both Offices on newspapers and magazines was:

	£
1999-2000	9,096
2000-01	13,639
2001-02	12,968
2002-03	12,990
2003-04	12,556
2004-05	11,546
2005-06	9,318
2006-07	9,753

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland on what dates his Department breached its *(a)* resource, *(b)* near-cash, *(c)* administration and *(d)* capital budgets since 2001; what the total value of each breach was; and what the reason was for each breach. [160320]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 April 1999 and since that date it has not breached its resource budget, near-cash budget, administration budget or its capital budget.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland in which financial years since 2001 his Department's outturn for its capital budget at the end of the year was less than planned at the beginning of the year; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* reason for the underspend was in each case. [160339]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office and the Office of the Advocate General have had a token capital budget of £100,000 in each year since 2001 and the outturn against the budget is as follows:

	£000
2001-02	62
2002-03	88
2003-04	13
2004-05	76
2005-06	64
2006-07	0

The underspends between 2001-02 and 2006-07 is to be used to fund capital projects planned for 2007-08.

Labour Party: Elections

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what procedure the right hon. Member for Paisley and Renfrewshire, South (Mr. Alexander) followed on appointment as Labour Party co-ordinator for the Scottish elections in May 2007, in relation to the Ministerial Code, with particular reference to sections *(a)* 1.2(f), *(b)* 7.3 and *(c)* 7.4; what discussions were held with the Permanent Secretary of the Department on this matter; and if he will make a statement. [161393]

David Cairns: My right hon. Friend the Member for Paisley and Renfrewshire, South (Mr. Alexander) was not appointed as Labour Party co-ordinator for the 2007 Scottish Elections. The campaign was run by the First Minister. No conflictof interest therefore arose and, accordingly, no discussions were held with the Head of the Scotland Office.

Personnel

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many employees of his Department were classified as working in *(a)* England and *(b)* Scotland (i) at the last date for which figures are available and (ii) in each of the last 10 years. [155755]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. The Office does not classify staff as working in England or Scotland; the Office has staff in London and Edinburgh, some of whom travel regularly between each location as business needs demand.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Antisocial Behaviour: Young People

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Solicitor-General what the Crown Prosecution Service's policy is on bringing prosecutions against young people for breach of anti-social behaviour contracts; and if she will make a statement. [161207]

The Solicitor-General: An acceptable behaviour contract is a preliminary, non-statutory intervention designed to tackle low level antisocial behaviour. Non-compliance cannot constitute a criminal offence that the Crown Prosecution Service could prosecute. The Crown Prosecution Service does not, therefore, have a policy on prosecutions against young people for breach of such contracts.

Departments: Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Solicitor-General how many and what percentage of questions tabled to her Department for answer on a named day received a substantive reply on the day named in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [161339]

The Solicitor-General: In the last 12 months 43 named day parliamentary questions were tabled to my office, 40 (93 per cent.) of which received a substantive answer on the day named.

Human Trafficking

Mr. Bone: To ask the Solicitor-General what progress has been made on improving prosecution rates in cases of alleged human trafficking; and if she will make a statement. [160822]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is working to improve the number of prosecutions, and the number of offences prosecuted under the human trafficking legislation is increasing year on year. It is important to note that traffickers may not necessarily be charged with specific trafficking offences depending on the facts of the case. Together with other departments, the CPS is implementing the UK Action Plan on trafficking. This should improve the prevention, investigation, enforcement and prosecution of these cases.

Prosecutions

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Solicitor-General what information is collected on the number of prosecutions sought by the police that are rejected by the Crown Prosecution Service. [157977]

The Solicitor-General: I have been asked to respond to this question, which appears to relate both to those cases referred to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) pre-charge, in which the decision of the Service was that no further action should be taken; and post charge, to those in which a decision was taken to drop proceedings.

Under statutory charging, the CPS is responsible for deciding whether a person should be charged with a criminal offence in all indictable only, either way and specified summary offences (which represent approximately 40 per cent. of all cases). In the remaining 60 per cent. of cases either the police retain the decision to charge, or proceedings are commenced by way of a summons.

Pre-charge

CPS records show that during the year ending March 2007, the CPS took a pre-charge decision in 524,111 cases. Of these, the CPS decided that no further action should be taken in the following number of cases:

Pre-charge decision	Number	Percentage of all pre-charge decisions
No further action-evidential grounds	169,821	32.4
No further action-public interest	16,276	3.1

Post charge

Where a defendant has been charged with a criminal offence, the case is subject to continuing review by the prosecutor. This process can reveal where there is no longer sufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction, or where new information weighs against a prosecution in the public interest. In these circumstances, the CPS will decide to stop the proceedings.

During the year ending March 2007, the CPS stopped proceedings in respect of 107,651 defendants in the magistrates' court, representing 10.8 per cent of the 998,910 cases completed in the magistrates' court; and a further 12,102 defendants in the crown court, representing 13.1 per cent. of the 92,340 cases completed in the crown court.

The aim of statutory charging is to determine the correct charge and build an evidentially strong case from the outset. One of the major benefits of statutory charging agreed with the Police Service is a reduction in the post charge discontinuance rate.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departments: Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what guidance his Department follows on the maximum time taken to respond to hon. Members' correspondence; and what performance against that target was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [158588]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Edward Miliband) on 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 45W.

Departments: Expenditure

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on travel and subsistence by officials in his Department in each financial year since 2005-06. [161696]

Mr. Woodward: The following figures represent the amount spent on travel and subsistence by Northern Ireland Office (NIO) officials in each financial year since 2005-06. These figures do not include the NIO's agencies and executive NDPBs.

2005-06: £842,472
2006-07: £772,947

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland in which financial years since 2001 his Department's outturn for its capital budget at the end of the year was less than planned at the beginning of the year; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* reason for the underspend was in each case. [160338]

Paul Goggins: The following table illustrates the Northern Ireland Office's (NIO's) opening and final budget provisions for capital; capital outturn; capital underspends and reasons for the underspends for each financial year since 2001. These figures represent the NIO Department, its Agencies and Executive NDPBs.

Financial year	Opening provision (as per Public Expenditure Outturns White Paper) (£ million)	Final provision (as per Public Expenditure Outturns White Paper) (£ million)	Capital outturn (£ million)	Actual capital underspend (£ million)	Reason for capital underspend
2001-02	40	59	42	17	Slippages in police non-severance and criminal justice projects
2002-03	60	69	53	16	Slippages in police non-severance capital projects
2003-04	64	73	50	23	Slippages in policing and security, criminal justice and police non-severance capital projects
2004-05	57	83	71	12	Slippages in police non-severance, PSNI, criminal justice and IT projects
2005-06	66	65	55	10	Slippages in build of new Juvenile Justice Centre and new forensic science laboratory
2006-07	72	85	[1]69	[1]16	Underspend with build of new Juvenile Justice Centre and various other projects

[1] Provisional

The National Audit Office measures spending performance against plans by comparing outturns against final provision following Supplementary Estimates rather than against plans at the start of the

year—as plans can change during the year for a number of reasons, such as machinery of government and classification changes. The definitive figures for final provision and provisional outturn are published each year in the "Public Expenditure Outturns White Paper". Changes to plans arising in-year are published in "Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses", as are differences between provisional and final outturns.

Fireworks

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many retailers had their registration to keep fireworks revoked under the Manufacture and Storage of Explosives Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 in each year since the Regulations came into operation. [161699]

Mr. Woodward: There has been one registration revoked since the Regulations came into operation on 1 December 2006, occurring in October 2007.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how he plans to measure the effectiveness of the Fireworks Public Safety Awareness and Enforcement Campaign launched on 8 October. [161700]

Paul Goggins: The effectiveness of the Fireworks Public Safety Awareness and Enforcement Campaign will be measured by a detailed post-campaign evaluation undertaken by my officials in conjunction with relevant devolved Departments, enforcement agencies, response services and other bodies involved in the campaign.

Homophobia: Performing Arts

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what steps the Police Service of Northern Ireland has taken to tackle the public availability of recordings containing lyrics liable to incite homophobic hatred. [160965]

Paul Goggins: The Police Service of Northern Ireland has not received any complaints of publicly available recordings of lyrics made to incite homophobic hatred. In the event of a complaint, a full investigation would be conducted.

The PSNI is committed to tackling all forms of hate crime.

Northern Bank: Robbery

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many Police Service Northern Ireland personnel are working on the investigation into the Northern Bank robbery, broken down by rank. [161557]

Paul Goggins: The Police Service of Northern Ireland continues to investigate the robbery of the Northern Bank in December 2004 and the associated offences connected to that robbery. This is a detailed investigation and it remains a high priority for the service. Resources are allocated in line with the overall operational needs of the investigations currently undertaken by the police service and for this reason the number of officers tasked to any investigation can fluctuate. It would not be appropriate to comment further on the details of this policing operation at this time.

Police: Pay

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the percentage change in *(a)* police officers' and *(b)* prison officers' pay in Northern Ireland was in each of the last six years. [161556]

Paul Goggins: Annual percentage increases in basic pay for police officers in the Police Service for Northern Ireland and prison officers in Northern Ireland Prison Service in each of the last six years are shown in the following table.

	Police officers	*Prison officers*
2002	3.0	5.0
2003	3.0	2.5
2004	3.0	2.0
2005	3.0	2.0
2006	3.0	2.0
2007	[1]	[2]

[1] The 2007 police pay negotiations have yet to be concluded.
[2] 2.0 + 1.5 per cent. efficiency award.

Territorial Waters: Northern Ireland

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what responsibility for the eco-systems in and around the territorial waters of Northern Ireland are *(a)* devolved to the Northern Ireland Executive and *(b)* retained competences for the United Kingdom Government; and what the geographical boundary is of the division of responsibility between the Executive and the UK Government in respect of (i) those lochs whose waters have outlets to the sea and (ii) those lochs and other waters whose shores are shared with the Republic of Ireland. [155824]

Paul Goggins: Answering this question has proved a complex task because responsibility crosses the devolved and reserved boundaries. Unfortunately it will not be possible to provide a comprehensive answer before the end of the Parliamentary Session, so I will write to the hon. Member once all the information is available explaining the position in detail.

I will place a copy of the letter in the Library.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland when he expects to reply to question 155824, on Northern Ireland territorial waters, tabled by the hon. Member for Thurrock on 5 October for answer on 8 October. [161332]

Paul Goggins: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave today.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departments: Manpower

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many civil servants work for her in her role as Minister for Women and Equality, broken down by grade; what the pay bands are for each of the grades; how many civil service posts were created at the time that the Government Equalities Office was established; what the budget is of the new Government Equalities Office; and when she will publish a business plan for the new Office. [159424]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office currently has a staff complement of 72.95 full-time equivalents.

Excluded from this figure is a small team of nine legal advisers who work alongside the GEO and the director general who has senior oversight of the GEO alongside other responsibilities. There are also 12 staff working at the Women's National Commission.

The breakdown of staff by grade is shown in the following table.

GEO	*Number*
Director	1
Deputy Director	4
Grade 6	6
Grade 7	14.8
SEO	15
HEO	16.5
HEO(D)	3.65
EO	5
AO	4
SPS	2
PS	1

The breakdown for WNC is based on permanent civil servants post. This does not include unpaid interns.

	Number
Grade 6	1
Grade 7	1
SEO	1
HEO	3
EO	4
AO	2

No new posts were created when the Government Equalities Office was established. The tables show the pay bands for each grade. The budget has yet to be agreed and will be laid before Parliament for approval as part of the winter supplementary estimates exercise. The Government Equalities Office will not be publishing a business plan for this financial year, but preparations are being made to develop one for 2008-09.

Departments: Marketing

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the cost was of creating signs for ministerial offices displaying the Government Equality Office's name. [159422]

Barbara Follett: No costs have been incurred in the creation of signage for the Government Equality Office's name.

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the total cost was of the establishment of the Government Equalities Office; and what the costs were of *(a)* relocation and *(b)* rebranding (i) signs, (ii) stationery and (iii) official publications. [159423]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office was formed by staff from existing teams based in the Department for Communities and Local Government. Budget estimates for the new office will be laid before Parliament in the normal manner and will be included in the winter supplementaries.

No relocation costs have been incurred in respect to the new Government Equalities Office. An interim logo was produced. The cost for this was £1,300. This resulted in a logo available in several formats for print and online use, as well as in Welsh. Some minimal staff time has been used in adapting computer logos to print new letter heads and new compliment slips. There has been no additional publication or signage costs.

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality on how many occasions she has visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [158926]

Barbara Follett: Since my appointment as Minister for Equality in July 2007, my official visits have been as follows:

	Number
East of England	1
North West	1
West Midlands	1

In my capacity as Minister for the East of England, I have visited the east of England on five occasions.

Domestic Violence: Advisory Services

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many independent domestic violence advisers were employed in each year since 1997, broken down by region; what indicators the Government use to assess their effectiveness; and what assessment she has made of their performance based on those indicators. [161437]

Barbara Follett: Every one of the 64 Specialist Domestic Violence Courts provides support to victims via an Independent Domestic Violence Advisor service (comprising at least one IDVA). As there is a wide range of work patterns across the 64 areas, we do not have precise employment numbers; we prefer to focus on ensuring delivery of a service that holistically supports individuals who are victims of domestic violence. By autumn of this year, there were 130 Government-funded graduates or students on the accredited training for Independent Domestic Violence Advisers, with a further 75 Government-funded places in the spring 2008.

In 2006-07 the Home Office provided £1.85 million funding to support Specialist Domestic Violence Courts including Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs). In 2007-08, the Ministry of Justice has secured £3 million to contribute towards the Independent Domestic Violence Advisors services supporting the existing 64 Specialist Domestic Violence Courts and for services outside these areas, with a commitment to ongoing funding.

A review of the original Specialist Domestic Violence Courts, selected in 2005-06, (which will include the specific contribution of the Independent Domestic Violence Advisors) is being undertaken at the moment which will be disseminated in November. Part of this review will include a quantitative data analysis of all Specialist Domestic Violence Courts. The review will examine what success looks like for Specialist Domestic Violence Courts in terms of criminal justice and safety measures. Based on the findings of the review, local areas will be advised on how they can measure performance, but we do not plan to have any national performance indicators.

In addition to Specialist Domestic Violence Courts, IDVAs are also integral to the success of the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conferences. These conferences are the cornerstone of our approach to the safety of victims of domestic violence through the agreement of safety plans for identified high risk victims. Early data from those areas which have been trained in Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference are promising with significant reductions in repeat victimisation, not least due to the work of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors who often carry out over 80 per cent. of the actions agreed at the conference.

Equal Pay

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what the gender pay gap is *(a)* nationally, *(b)* by region and *(c)* by constituency. [157754]

Barbara Follett: The gender pay gap figures are based on median full-time hourly earnings (excluding overtime) in 2006 derived from the Annual Survey of Hourly Earnings (ASHE). The data on earnings are reported by place of residence (rather than place of work).

(a) Nationally

	£ per hour		Gap (percentage)
	Male	Female	
United Kingdom	11.71	10.24	12.6

(b) By region

	£ per hour		Gap (percentage)
	Male	Female	
England	11.93	10.36	13.2
North East	10.54	8.79	16.6
North West	11.14	9.77	12.3
Yorkshire and The Humber	10.78	9.25	14.2
East Midlands	11.05	9.44	14.6
West Midlands	10.93	9.57	12.4
East	12.39	10.36	16.4
London	14.46	13.41	7.3
South East	13.37	10.84	18.9
South West	11.22	9.34	16.8
Wales/Cymru	10.67	9.32	12.7
Scotland	11.09	10.00	9.8
Northern Ireland	10.02	9.98	0.4

(c) Accurate figures for the gender pay gap by constituency are not available, because sample sizes are too small.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent steps the Government have taken to reduce the gender pay gap. [161563]

Barbara Follett: Closing the pay gap between men and women is a key priority for us, as I made clear in my statement to Parliament on priorities for the Ministers for Women. We see tackling the pay gap as an essential part of enabling families to have real choices about how they live their lives because the pay gap plays such a large part in the unequal division of labour in the home, preventing fathers from playing a more active role in their children's early years and preventing women from fulfilling their opportunities to work.

To galvanise this, closing the pay gap is now one of the indicators in the new equalities public service agreement. This will help to build on other practical measures we have introduced, such as: giving the parents of young, or disabled, children and the carers of adults the right to request flexible working; since 1997, doubling the number of registered childcare places to 1.28 million; and guaranteeing all three and four-year-olds a free, 12½ hours a week 38 weeks a year Government funded, early education place.

Suicide: Gender

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what research the Government has *(a)* conducted, *(b)* commissioned and *(c)* reviewed on the gender gap in suicide rates. [161588]

Barbara Follett: The Government have not conducted or commissioned any research on the gender gap in suicide rates. However, we know that men are around three times more likely to take their own life than women and the ratio in younger men aged 15-34 is even greater. The Government commissioned an evaluation of three mental health promotion pilots targeted at young men and published a report of that evaluation, Reaching Out: Evaluation of three mental health promotion pilots to reduce suicide among young men, in 2006.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Manpower

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many staff were employed by the *(a)* Commission for Racial Equality, *(b)* Disability Rights

Commission and *(c)* Equal Opportunities Commission prior to the establishment of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [157110]

Barbara Follett *[pursuant to the reply, 17 October 2007, Official Report, c. 1075W]:* The CRE headcount was 215, the DRC headcount was 205 and the EOC headcount was 180, which gives a total of 600 staff across the three organisations.

Equality and Human Rights Commission: Marketing

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much was spent on *(a)* branding, *(b)* marketing and *(c)* website design as part of the establishment of the Equality and Human Rights Commission. [157113]

Barbara Follett: The following amounts have been spent on the establishment of the new Equality and Human Rights Commission:

(a) approximately £100,000 on branding;

(b) approximately £65,000 on helpline materials, stationery, exhibition stands, information packs and intranet design.

(c) approximately £1.2 million on the website. This includes all of the technical site build; graphic user interface and specialist accessibility testing.

Gender: Health

Jo Swinson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what research the Government has conducted into the gender gap in reported levels of subjective well-being. [157726]

Barbara Follett: The Government Equalities Office has conducted no such research.

Maternity Services: East Midlands

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the ratio of births to maternity nurses in the East Midlands. [160597]

Barbara Follett: I have had no such discussions with the Secretary of State for Health.

Rape: Victim Support Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what representations she has received on the possible closure of rape crisis centres. [157120]

Barbara Follett: The sustainability and viability of the sexual violence voluntary sector is an issue which has been raised with the Ministers for Women and Equality both directly in correspondence and via the consultation on the priorities for the Ministers for Women, led by the Women's National Commission. According to the Women's National Commission, of a total of 235 responses received by 14 September, when the consultation closed, 13 respondents made comments about funding for the sexual violence sector, statutory and non-statutory. Since July 2007, the Government Equalities Office has received six letters which were concerned about the future of rape crisis centres.

As already indicated in my previous answer, this is an issue which I take very seriously and which I will shortly be discussing with other Ministers.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Transport Links

22. **Mr. Hoyle:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what discussions she has had with the Department for Transport in order to ensure efficient transport links to the Olympic Stadium from across the country are in place for the 2012 Games. [160992]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Transport Plan (OTP) published on 23 October contains details of the national transport systems to be provided for the 2012 Games. This plan was the result of extensive consultation which included representatives from Department for Transport, and other relevant Government Departments.

The provision of transport enhancements within London is being designed to take account of the need to move visitors efficiently from their point of arrival in the capital, be that a rail terminus or a 'park and ride' site, across London to the Olympic Park. For instance, it will take only seven minutes to travel from St. Pancras to Stratford International using the Javelin service.

Skilled Local Workers

23. **Mr. Sheerman:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps she is taking to ensure that a sufficient supply of appropriately skilled local workers are available for the construction of the Olympic infrastructure. [160993]

Tessa Jowell: A significant amount of activity is already under way to ensure Londoners have the necessary skills to compete for jobs. This includes a construction training centre being developed in Waltham Forest and a training facility being developed on the Olympic site to provide sustainable training and employment opportunities. The Local Employment and Training Framework for host boroughs is providing for training across key sectors for 2012, including construction.

North-East Derbyshire

24. **Natascha Engel:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps are being taken to ensure that North-East Derbyshire benefits from the London 2012 Olympic Games. [160995]

Tessa Jowell: A Nations and Regions Group (NRG) has been established to maximise the benefits from the Games across the UK.

The Government have also set out five legacy promises for 2012 and will be publishing in the next few months a Legacy Action Plan outlining what national programmes we will deliver and how local people in every region can get involved.

The East Midlands launched its 2012 strategy for consultation in March.

Olympic Contingency Fund

25. **Bob Spink:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics to which organisations the £2.7 billion Olympic contingency fund announced in March 2007 has been allocated. [160996]

Tessa Jowell: On 15 March 2007, I announced a funding provision of £9.325 billion for the Olympic and Paralympic Games, which included provision for £2.747 billion programme contingency.

£238 million of the programme contingency is for any potential increases in the costs of policing and wider security. The use of the remaining programme contingency is subject to the approval of the Ministerial Funders' Group, who in June 2007 agreed to release £360 million of the programme contingency to the Olympic Delivery Authority.

North-West England: Support

26. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what support is available for local authorities in the North West of England to develop their strategies and policies for London 2012. [160997]

Tessa Jowell: The Local Government Association are supporting local authorities across the UK in the lead up to 2012 and cultural agencies in the North West are assisting the development of their strategies and projects to help broker partnerships with other authorities and schemes.

Local authorities are also fully engaged across the region through representation on the North West Steering Group for the 2012 Games.

Citizens' Juries

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what estimate he has made of the total cost of running the citizens' juries since June, broken down where possible by *(a)* market research company payments, *(b)* other outsourced services, *(c)* venue and catering expenses, *(d)* payments to participants for (i) attendance and (ii) transportation, *(e)* analysis and presentation of results and *(f)* other costs; [160257]

(2) what the total cost has been of each citizens jury held to date. [159932]

Edward Miliband: The Cabinet Office held a day long deliberative forum on the draft legislative programme. This was delivered by IPSOS Mori, after a competitive exercise run by COI. The estimated cost is £52,575 which is broken down as follows:

	£
Project Development and Management	4,850
Fieldwork (including recruitment and moderation)	17,480
Analysis and reporting	4,200
Venue Hire (22 Whitehall)	Free
Travel, Accommodation and other expenses	15,700
IML Voting Handsets (hire)	4,500
Miscellaneous (printing, stationery)	1,250
COI Research Costs	2,000
Ecovert Catering Costs	2,163.70
Courier costs (because of postal strike)	550

Civil Servants: Pay

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) whether regional pay for England outside London is to be introduced across all departments; [159908]

(2) what protocols have been agreed to protect the terms and conditions of civil servants who transfer between Whitehall departments following the introduction of regional pay in England outside London. [159910]

Gillian Merron: Departments have delegated authority to determine pay arrangements for their own staff below the Senior Civil Service (SCS) that best meet their own business needs. Under the delegated arrangements, it is for individual departments and agencies to determine what levels of pay are appropriate to recruit, retain and motivate their own staff, taking into account local labour markets where relevant. Where staff are required to transfer between civil service organisations, it is for the departments and agencies involved to ensure that there is no overall detriment to individuals' terms and conditions.

For the SCS, which is managed centrally, departments and agencies have flexibility to differentiate pay between London and National regions. There are no plans to introduce more regionalised pay structures for the SCS.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many separate negotiating bodies for pay, terms and conditions there are in the Civil Service; and how many there were in 2001. [159909]

Gillian Merron: Departments have delegated authority to determine pay and conditions arrangements for their own staff below the Senior Civil Service (SCS) that best meet their own business needs. Under the delegated arrangements, there are 89 civil service departments and agencies that negotiate pay and conditions for their own staff as part of the wider management of human resource functions in their organisations. Such negotiations take place within the parameters set by the Treasury in its annual pay remit guidance and pay policy for the wider public sector. There are no central records for 2001. Pay for the Senior Civil Service is not delegated to departments (recommendations to the Government are made by the Senior Salaries Review Body).

Civil Service: Codes of Practice

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he expects to publish the updated Directory of Civil Service Guidance. [160955]

Edward Miliband: The Directory of Civil Service Guidance is being revised. A new version will be published before the end of the year.

Departmental Coordination

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what projects the Strategy Unit has begun since 1 July. [159799]

Edward Miliband: The Strategy Unit's work programme falls into two broad parts:

(a) standing teams covering core policy areas including education; health; home affairs; and public service improvement; and

(b) a small number of time-limited projects covering cross-cutting issues such as childhood and food policy.

Departmental Responsibilities: Publications

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average time taken to publish the Ministerial Responsibilities Book has been since its first publication. [160689]

Edward Miliband: This information is not held.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost was to publish the Ministerial Responsibilities Book in each of the last five years. [160690]

Edward Miliband: The "List of Ministerial Responsibilities" is produced in-house and the costs are not separately identified.

Departments: Department of Health

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when the Department of Health was last represented on his Department's Delivery Council. [159782]

Gillian Merron: The Department of Health was last represented at the Delivery Council meeting on 27 February 2007.

Departments: Expenditure

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much 10 Downing street spent on *(a)* cosmetics and *(b)* make-up artists for media appearances, in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) since the Prime Minister took up office. [160434]

Gillian Merron: 10 Downing street did not incur any expenditure on cosmetics and make up artists for media appearances, in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) since Prime Minister Brown took up office.

Departments: Manpower

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff are *(a)* employed, *(b)* were employed in April 2007 and *(c)* are expected to be employed in December 2007 in the Strategy Unit. [159802]

Edward Miliband: At the end of December 2006 the Strategy Unit employed 50.74 FTE[1] members of staff. At the end of April 2007 42.8 FTE were employed and currently 43.4 FTE are employed.

[1] Full-time equivalent.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the name is of each special adviser in his Department. [153293]

Edward Miliband: The annual list of special adviser names will be published shortly.

Departments: Public Appointments

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library copies of his Department's guidance on appointments to the Delivery Council. [159781]

Gillian Merron: Appointments to the Delivery Council are made on a case by case basis in discussion with the relevant Permanent Secretary or equivalent. The Public Service Reform page on the Cabinet Office website:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/publicservicereform/delivery_council.aspx

offers general advice on the remit and role of members. However, there is no formal guidance on appointments to the Delivery Council.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster who the members are of his Department's *(a)* Delivery and *(b)* Contact Council; and on what date each was appointed. [159783]

Gillian Merron: The following are the latest members of the Delivery Council. Except where indicated appointments date from the first meeting of the group on 29 June 2006:

Sir David Varney, Prime Minister's Adviser on Service Transformation (Chair)

Paul Gray, HMRC

Andrew Burchell, Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs

Natalie Ceeney, The National Archives (25 October 2006)

Janet Callender, Tameside BC and Chair, GovConnect

Alexis Cleveland, Cabinet Office

Paul Coen, Local Government Association

Stephen Crowne, British Educational Communications and Technology Agency

Jim Drummond, Department for International Development

Helen Edwards, National Offender Management Service

Margaret Edwards, Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority

David Harker, Citizens Advice

Stephen Hickey, Department for Transport

John Kingman, Her Majesty's Treasury

Peter Housden, Communities and Local Government (1 October 2007)

John Suffolk, Government Chief Information Officer

Ralph Tabberer, Department for Children, Schools and Families

Chris Thompson, Department of Finance and Personnel, Northern Ireland

Sir Ron De Witt, HM Court Service

John Mayhead, Chair—Customer Insight Forum (27 February 2007)

James Hall, Identity and Passport Service (21 May 2007)

Stephen Holt, Department for Work and Pensions (1 October 2007)

Terry Moran, The Pension Service (1 October 2007)

Ian Law, Chair—Contact Council (1 October 2007)

Hilary Douglas, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (21 May 2007)

Andrew Stott, Cabinet Office

Alan Hughes, Advisory Member

Ursula Brennan, Advisory Member

The following are members of the Contact Council. Except where indicated appointments date from the first meeting of the group on 8 March 2007:

Ian Law (Chair), Cabinet Office

Commander Simon Foy, Metropolitan Police (6 August 2007)

Dr. Martin Herbert, Student Loan Company (9 October 2007)

Bernard Quinn, NHS Direct

John Sills, Ministry of Justice

Martin Wyn Griffith, DBERR (6 August 2007)

Mike Sadler, NHS Direct

Nick Lodge, HMRC

Ian Broom, DVLA (6 August 2007)

Tim Rainey, Local Government (6 August 2007)

Anna Brocklehurst, DCSF (9 October 2007)

Hannah Saunders, Home Office

Isabelle Bignall, Local Government (9 October 2007)

Val Gibson, DWP—JobcentrePlus (9 October 2007)

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on what dates his Department breached its *(a)* resource, *(b)* near-cash, *(c)* administration and *(d)* capital budgets since 2001; what the value of each breach was; and what the reason was for each breach. [160311]

Gillian Merron: The Cabinet Office breached its resource budget in financial year 2002-03.

The Cabinet Office has not breached its near cash budget, administration budget, nor capital budget on any occasion during the financial years ended since 2001.

On 31 March 2003, Net Resource Requirement totalled £2.4 million in excess of the amount authorised and this was after obtaining HM Treasury approval for virement to apply the underspends falling within Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) to reduce the overspends within Annually Managed Expenditure (AME).

Within AME, there arose unbudgeted expenditure of £4.5 million arising from the fall in value of information technology assets.

Following consultation with the National Audit Office, the Cabinet Office concluded the values of software assets used by Transformational Government (formerly e-Envoy) in the development of websites for the Government Gateway and the Knowledge Network were overstated.

Departments: Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many citizens' juries were arranged for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies in each year since 1997; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the cost was of each; [160013]

(2) how many citizens' juries have been arranged by the Cabinet Office since June; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the estimated cost is of each exercise. [159492]

Edward Miliband: The Cabinet Office held a day long deliberative forum attended by the Leader of the House on 20 October 2007 on the draft legislative programme. This was delivered by IPSOS Mori, after a competitive exercise run by COI. The estimated cost is £52,575.

Deliberative fora were also used as part of the Policy Review process. I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 9 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1259W.

Data from 1997 are not readily available and would require a significant review of all engagement activities and analysis of the techniques used, extracting data at a disproportionate cost.

Departments: Public Relations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what his Department's budget is for media, press and public affairs training for 2007-08. [159918]

Gillian Merron: The Cabinet Office has no specific budget for media, press and public affairs training, which is funded from units' general training budgets, and it is not possible to distinguish.

Departments: Publications

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library copies of the *(a)* agenda and *(b)* minutes of the last four meetings of his Department's (i) Delivery and (ii) Contact Council. [159780]

Gillian Merron: As part of the development of the Service Transformation Agreement these groups have been responsible for discussing the challenges and opportunities associated with transformation so that advice is given to departmental Ministers.

These groups give advice to Ministers. It is not normal practice to disclose details of such meetings.

Departments: Resignations

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff left the *(a)* Strategy and *(b)* Delivery Unit in each month since March, broken down by pay band. [159798]

Edward Miliband: The number of staff leaving the Strategy Unit and Delivery Unit in each month since March 2007 is shown in the following tables. It would not be normal practice to publish further information relating to such small numbers in order to protect the confidentiality of individuals.

Strategy Unit

Month (2007)	*Number of staff (FTE)*[1]
March	4
April	2
May	1
June	2
July	4
August	4
September	1.5
October	1.5

Delivery Unit

Month (2007)	*Number of staff (FTE)*[1]
March	—
April	—
May	1
June	5
July	2
August	3
September	4
October	6

[1] Full-time equivalents.

Departments: Secondment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff from HM Treasury have been seconded to the Strategy Unit since June, broken down by pay band; and how many such staff are expected to be seconded to his Strategy Unit in the next six months. [159800]

Edward Miliband: In order to protect the confidentiality of individuals, it is standard Government practice not to publish records relating to five or less individuals.

Departments: Security

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on how many occasions since 2002 attempts were made to gain unauthorised access to *(a)* computers and *(b)* buildings in his Department; and of those how many were successful. [151269]

Gillian Merron: Since 2002, there have been four recorded attempts to gain unauthorised access to computers in my Department, all of which were successful external hacking. There have been seven recorded attempts to gain unauthorised access to buildings, five of which resulted in unauthorised access.

The Cabinet Office regularly reviews its security processes and procedures to minimise risks to its staff and assets. All breaches are investigated fully and any additional measures required as a consequence are swiftly implemented.

Departments: Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many and what percentage of Questions tabled to his Department for answer on a named day received a substantive reply on the day named in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [161344]

Edward Miliband: The Cabinet Office received 81 named day questions in the last 12 months. Of these 81 per cent. were answered on the day specified.

National Security: Scotland

David Mundell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what role he expects the devolved administration in Scotland to play in relation to the Government's National Security Strategy and National Security Committee. [156545]

Edward Miliband: Members of the devolved administrations, not being UK Government Ministers, are not members of UK Cabinet Committees and are therefore not usually invited to attend.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 50W, on Olympic Games: Greater London and the subsequent announcement of Adidas as official sponsor and sportswear supplier of the 2012 Olympic Games, what obligations are contained within the terms of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG)'s contracts with suppliers and licensees, in particular Adidas, to ensure that they monitor, enforce and report on compliance with the standards of the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) Base Code; what steps will be taken to ensure compliance with the living wage provision of the ETI base code; and how LOCOG plans to work with the Play Fair Alliance and ETI in the future. [158737]

Tessa Jowell: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is committed to promoting ethical principles consistent with the Olympic Charter. LOCOG is making the Ethical Trading Initiative (ETI) Base Code (which includes a living wage provision) a condition for suppliers (and licensees) where applicable, and is going through a process of ensuring it is applied to all appropriate contracts.

LOCOG is in the process of developing a Sustainable Sourcing Code which sets out expectations of suppliers and licensees and its approach to managing its supply chain, through programmes such as the Suppliers Ethical Data Exchange (SEDEX). Adidas has signed up to the full provisions of LOCOG's sustainability requirements.

Adidas joined the Fair Labor Association in the US in 1999, and were included in the FTSE4Good Index—which indicates it has met stringent social, ethical and environmental criteria.

Further details of its social and environmental programme can be found on their website.

London 2012 is working with several leading organisations in this field. ETI and the PlayFair Alliance are already part of this process and will continue to be so.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much in 2007-08 prices the Government spent on the Olympics in each year since the UK bid was successful. [159420]

Tessa Jowell: The DCMS Resource Accounts for 2006-07 (HC 847) show the following expenditure on the Olympics: £39.7 million in 2005-06, and £99.9 million in 2006-07. Additionally, the Government Olympic Executive, part of the DCMS, cost £1.4 million in 2005-06 and £3.1 million in 2006-07. This information is not reported at 2007-08 prices.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1593W, on the Olympic Games: Greater London, whether *(a)* KPMG and *(b)* officials in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport made updates to financial estimates of the cost of the Olympics. [159887]

Tessa Jowell: KPMG were commissioned in October 2005, to provide advice on the cost of the Olympic Games. That advice was provided on an ongoing basis; and involved KPMG presenting information in the form of oral presentations and updates to financial estimates. This work was overseen by the cost review group which included officials from the Department.

Lorely Burt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps she has taken to ensure that there is competitive tendering for Olympic contracts. [160994]

Tessa Jowell: As a public body the Olympic Delivery Authority is fully committed to ensuring competitive tendering for contracts in compliance with UK and EU procurement law.

The ODA's Procurement Policy, launched in March 2007, states it will:

"encourage competition, locally, nationally and internationally through actively promoting tendering opportunities, to promote as wide and as vigorous a competition as can be achieved."

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will bring forward proposals to include celebrations of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee as part of the Olympic Games in 2012. [161308]

Tessa Jowell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell).

PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Fish

Norman Baker: To ask the Prime Minister (1) which companies have contracts to supply his Office with fish; and when those contracts will end; [160945]

(2) what consideration his Office has given to introducing sustainable seafood procurement policy; [160946]

(3) what quantity of cod from the North Sea or Eastern Baltic was procured by his Office in 2006. [160947]

The Prime Minister: My office supports the public sector food procurement initiative. Information on the quantity of cod procured is not held.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister whether any of his Department's special advisers have declared a conflict of interest. [160771]

The Prime Minister: Special advisers are appointed under the terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract and Code of Conduct for Special Advisers, copies of which are in the Library of the House.

Mr. Spring: To ask the Prime Minister (1) whether Spencer Livermore holds a position remunerated from the public purse; and if he will make a statement; [152723]

(2) whether Michael Jacobs holds a position remunerated from the public purse; and if he will make a statement; [152725]

(3) whether Stewart Wood holds a position remunerated by the public purse; and if he will make a statement; [152726]

(4) whether Gavin Kelly holds a position remunerated by the public purse; and if he will make a statement; [152727]

(5) how much the chair of the Council of Economic Advisers is paid; whether Dan Corry holds a position remunerated by the public purse other than in relation to the Council of Economic Advisers; and if he will make a statement. [152730]

Mr. Harper: To ask the Prime Minister if he will place in the Library a list of special advisers to Ministers. [159668]

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister (1) for what reason the publishing of the annual list of special advisers was delayed; [160058]

(2) what the *(a)* job title, *(b)* salary and *(c)* number of staff assigned to Joe Irvin is; [160793]

(3) what the name is of each special adviser in his Office. [153163]

The Prime Minister: A list of Special Advisers will be published in due course.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister on what dates his Department breached its *(a)* resource, *(b)* near-cash, *(c)* administration and *(d)* capital budgets since 2001; what the total value of each breach was; and what the reason was for each breach. [160306]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln (Gillian Merron) today.

Departments: Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Prime Minister (1) how many citizens' juries have been arranged by his Office since June 2007; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the estimated cost is of each exercise; [159493]

(2) how many citizens' juries were arranged for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies in each year since 1997; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the cost was of each. [160012]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Member for Doncaster, North my right hon. Friend (Edward Miliband) the Minister for the Cabinet Office today.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 820W, on Iraq: peacekeeping operations, at which of his regular meetings with the Secretary of State for Defence he informed him of his decision to announce troop withdrawal from Iraq. [161464]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 820W.

Manpower: Prime Minister's Office

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister how many speech-writers his Office employs. [160035]

The Prime Minister: Speechwriting is co-ordinated by one of my private secretaries.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC Licence Fee

10. **Mr. Leech:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the BBC on the licence fee settlement. [161007]

James Purnell: None. The settlement was announced on 18 January this year. It is a fair and realistic settlement that will allow the BBC to secure the effective promotion of its public purposes, as set out in the Charter and Agreement.

Sport England

11. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many young athletes in *(a)* England and *(b)* Macclesfield constituency have received financial support from Sport England in the last 12 months. [161008]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England does not provide any direct financial support to individual athletes. Its primary role is to increase participation in sport through Exchequer and Lottery funding in programmes and projects around the country.

UK Sport, the Government's lead agency for elite sport, provides financial support to our most talented athletes through its World Class Pathway Programme. There are currently 361 athletes under 21 in England receiving funding through this programme, one of whom lives in Macclesfield.

In addition, talented athletes in higher and further education can also apply for an award from the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme—also known as TASS—which is managed by UK Sport.

There are currently 752 athletes under 21 being funded through TASS, again one of whom lives in Macclesfield.

Public Service Broadcasting

12. **Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the Director General of the BBC on the BBC's public service broadcasting responsibilities. [161009]

17. **Michael Fabricant:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the BBC Trust on the BBC's public service obligations; and if he will make a statement. [161015]

James Purnell: None. The BBC's public service broadcasting responsibilities are set out in the Charter and Agreement. It is the responsibility of the BBC Trust to secure the effective promotion of the BBC's Public Purposes.

Digital Switchover

13. **Mr. Jamie Reed:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the digital switchover programme in Whitehaven. [161011]

James Purnell: My Department—along with Ofcom, Digital UK and the Help Scheme—will be assessing the switchover process in Whitehaven to see if there are any lessons for other areas. Early indications are that the process has been well managed.

Folk Dance and Song

14. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government are taking to promote England's traditional folk dance and song. [161012]

Margaret Hodge: Levels of financial support for music and dance through Arts Council England are now at their highest ever, with the music sector receiving over £100 million and the dance sector over £35 million during 2007-08.

Support for English folk dance and song continues to be a part of this investment with Arts Council England funding a number of organisations who promote and develop these art forms.

Heritage Funding

15. **Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make a statement on trends in the level of heritage funding over the last five years. [161013]

Margaret Hodge: Heritage funding by the Government has risen from £182.5 million in 2003-04 to £205.2 million in 2007-08. This is a 1.7 per cent. increase in real terms. A breakdown of these figures will be placed in the Library.

This excludes funding from other Government sources which may also benefit heritage.

Lottery grants have fallen from £333.9 million in 2002-03 to £310.9 million, a real terms decrease of 16.0 per cent. However, this figure has fluctuated during this period (with a maximum in 2004-05 of £363 million). The average was £328.74 million.

Children's Sport

16. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress is being made in increasing children's participation in sport. [161014]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Through the joint DCSF and DCMS National School Sport Strategy the Government are revitalising PE and sport for young people.

The 2006-07 School Sport Survey showed that 86 per cent. of pupils in maintained schools in England participate in at least two hours of high quality Physical Education and school sport each week, an increase of 6 percentage points on last year and exceeding the 2008 target of 85 per cent. a year early.

Both Departments continue to work closely to develop the plans to offer children and young people, aged 5 to 16 years, five hours of sport a week and three hours for young people aged 16-19 years from April 2008.

National Heritage

18. **Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what measures he plans to introduce to preserve national heritage. [161016]

Margaret Hodge: The White Paper, Heritage Protection for the 21st Century, published in March, set out our proposals for reforming the heritage protection system to ensure we continue to preserve our national heritage. Legislation is required to enact these proposals and we are aiming to publish a draft bill for pre-legislative scrutiny in the Third Session.

Big Lottery Fund: Wirral, South

19. **Ben Chapman:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of trends in the value of funding provided by the Big Lottery Fund in Wirral, South in the last five years. [161017]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The nature of awards made under the Big Lottery Fund means that the amount awarded to individual constituencies can fluctuate markedly from year-to-year. The Big Lottery Fund would be happy to meet my hon. Friend or his constituents to identify ways of generating more successful applications from Wirral, South.

Intellectual Property Rights

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to protect intellectual property rights; and if he will make a statement. [161006]

Margaret Hodge: Policy responsibility for intellectual property rests with the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills. We recognise the importance of a strong and balanced IP system and my Department is working closely with DIUS and stakeholders across Whitehall on a range of issues in relation to intellectual property, including those arising in the development of our Creative Economy Programme and the implementation of the Cowers Review's recommendations.

Anti-Semitism

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many officials from his Department have attended meetings of the cross-departmental working group on tackling anti-Semitism. [161224]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department contributed fully to consideration of the recommendations of the All-Party Inquiry into Anti-Semitism, including attendance by one official at one of the two meetings of the officials' working group convened to consider the Government's response, which was published on 29 March 2007 (Cm 7059).

Bookmakers

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to review the allocation and ownership of pitch positions for on course bookmakers. [161397]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government have no plans to undertake such a review. The system for allocating pitch list positions is a private matter for racecourses and on-course bookmakers to agree between themselves. The Racecourse Association has indicated that the present pitch lists will be recognised until 2012. Racecourses and bookmakers therefore have five years to negotiate new arrangements, and my Department is playing an active role in facilitating negotiations. The present Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee inquiry into this issue is also allowing all interested parties an opportunity to explain their positions.

British Waterways Board: Finance

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and *(b)* British Waterways on (i) the National Waterways Museum entry fees and (ii) the funding of the Waterways Trust and National Waterways Museum; and if he will make a statement. [160717]

Margaret Hodge: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had no discussions to date with either my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs or British Waterways on these issues.

My Department will however, be working closely with DEFRA on those elements of the recent Select Committee inquiry on British Waterways which have a bearing on the operations of the National Waterways Museums.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what grants *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the National Lottery and *(c)* other public bodies for which his Department is responsible provided to British Waterways in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [161568]

Margaret Hodge: The information requested is as follows:

(a) My Department has not paid any grants to British Waterways

(b) 35 grants with a total award value of £103,310,000 have been awarded by Lottery distributors where the project title or recipient is recorded on the Department's Lottery Grants Database as "British Waterways". The Database is searchable at www.lottery.culture.gov.uk and uses information supplied by the Lottery distributors.

(c) Information on grants paid by the non-departmental public bodies for which my Department is responsible is not held centrally.

Culture: Marketing

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many regional creative programmers have been appointed. [161460]

Margaret Hodge: Eight regional creative programmers have been appointed, one for each of the English regions outside of London. London is looking to put in place a framework for developing the Cultural Olympiad on a city-wide basis.

Departments: Assets

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what departmental assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; and what the expected revenue from each such sale is. [160350]

Margaret Hodge: The Department intends to dispose of one asset in financial year 2007-08. This is described on our asset register as "land to the north of the British Library, Camden, London". It has a net book value of £26.6 million. Anticipated receipts are commercially sensitive. No further asset disposals are planned in financial years 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what departmental budget items have been reclassified, under consolidated budgeting guidance, following Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 decisions; and what the *(a)* former and *(b)* new (i) classification and (ii) sum budgeted is in each case. [160416]

Margaret Hodge: The Department had no budget classification changes following CSR 07.

Departments: Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what guidance his Department follows on the maximum time taken to respond to hon. Members' correspondence; and what performance against that target was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [158598]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Cabinet Office publishes guidance for Departments on handling correspondence from Members of Parliament, Members of the House of Lords, MEPs, and Members of devolved Assemblies. Copies are available in the Libraries of the House and it is also available on the Cabinet Office Website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/upload/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/correspondence.pdf

The Cabinet Office also publishes, on an annual basis, a report on Departments' and agencies performance on handling Members' and Peers' correspondence. This includes the target set by each department to reply to hon. Members, the number of letters received and the percentage of replies within target. The last report for 2006 was published by the then Minister for the Cabinet Office my right hon. Friend the Member for North-West Durham (Hilary Armstrong) on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 101-04WS.

DCMS takes replies to correspondence very seriously. For the period 1 January 2007 to 30 June 2007, 80.46 per cent. of MPs' and Peers' letters requiring a response were answered to target dates of 20 working days, although we answer more quickly than this wherever possible. In addition, 91 per cent. of our responses to members of the public (6,141 of 6,710 cases) were answered within 20 working days for the same time period.

Departments: Disabled People

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which buildings occupied by his Department *(a)* are and *(b)* are not fully accessible to disabled people; and if he will make a statement. [161177]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport occupies three buildings Cockspur Street, Oceanic House and Queen's Yard. All three buildings are fully accessible to disabled people.

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many websites his Department operates; how many it operated at 1 January 2005; and what the estimated annual cost has been of running his Department's websites in the last five years. [157889]

Margaret Hodge: My Department currently operates 15 websites. On 1 January 2005 it operated eight. In common with other Government Departments, we are involved in rationalising our websites. So far we have closed one site with another scheduled to close on 1 November 2007.

Annual costs summary for the last five years are as follows:

£

DCMS	*Start-up costs*	*Maintenance costs*	*Total*
2002-03	39,950.00	51,000.00	90,950.00
2003-04	5,020.00	62,000.00	67,020.00
2004-05	19,520.00	43,412.06	62,932.00
2005-06	11,357.50	48,000.00	59,357.50
2006-07	20.00	35,993.78	36,013.78

More statistical information about DCMS websites is provided in the National Audit Office publication "Government on the internet: progress in delivering information and services online" (http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/nao_reports/06-07/0607529.pdf) pp 19,20,24.

Site details of websites 2002-07 are as follows:

Website	*URL*	*Status at 1 September 2007*
Agora[1]	www.agora.culture.gov.uk	Closed
BBC Charter Review	www.bbccharterreview.org.uk/	Closing date 1 November 2007
Better Public Buildings[2]	www.betterpublicbuildings.gov.uk	Transferred
Break Out	www.culture.gov.uk/breakout/fl/index.htm	Live
Casino Advisory Panel	www.culture.gov.uk/cap/	Live
Communications Act 2003	www.communicationsact.gov.uk/	Live
Communications Bill	www.communicationsbill.gov.uk	Closed
Creative Economy Programme	www.cep.culture.gov.uk/	Live
Culture Online[3]	www.cultureonline.gov.uk/	Live
Department for Culture, Media and Sport (main site)	www.culture.gov.uk	Live
Digital Television	www.digitaltelevision.gov.uk	Live
Flying the Union Flag	www.culture.gov.uk/flagflying/default.htm	Live
Golden Jubilee[4]	www.goldenjubilee.gov.uk	Closed
Government Art Collection	www.gac.culture.gov.uk/home/index.asp	Live
Lottery 2009 shares consultation	www.lottery2009.culture.gov.uk/	Live
Mobility of Collections	www.culture.gov.uk/mobility/	Live
Royal Parks Agency	www.royalparks.gov.uk/	Transferred
UK World Heritage site	www.ukworldheritage.org.uk/	Live
Where We Live	www.wherewelive.org.uk/	Live

[1] Agora website closed in August 2007.
[2] Better Public Building was transferred to CABE in August 2003.
[3] Culture Online became self-managing in 2003 and was transferred back to DCMS in 2007.
[4] Costs of the Golden Jubilee website were met by the Home Office and later transferred to DCMS.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether any of his Department's special advisers have declared a conflict of interest. [160785]

Margaret Hodge: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 25 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 484W.

Departments: Overseas Workers

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of his Department's staff are based overseas on an *(a)* temporary and *(b)* permanent basis; if he will list their locations; and if he will make a statement. [161763]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has no staff based overseas on *(a)* a temporary basis or *(b)* a permanent basis.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what dates his Department breached its *(a)* resource, *(b)* near-cash, *(c)* administration and *(d)* capital budget since 2001; what the value of each breach was; and what the reason was for each breach. [160313]

Margaret Hodge: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not breached any of the budgets in question since 2001.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in which financial years since 2001 his Department's outturn for its capital budget at

the end of the year was less than planned at the beginning of the year; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* reason for the under spend was in each case. [160332]

Margaret Hodge: The National Audit Office measures spending performance against plans by comparing outturns against final provision following Supplementary Estimates—rather than against plans at the start of the year—as plans can change during the year for a number of reasons, such as machinery of government and classification changes. The definitive figures for final provision and provisional outturn are published each year in the Public Expenditure Outturns White Paper. Changes to plans arising in-year are published in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses, as are differences between provisional and final outturns.

In 2001-02 the Capital outturn for DCMS was £48 million less than planned expenditure. The under spend was due in the most part to the slow start to the Capital Modernisation Fund project "Spaces for Sport and Art". The unspent funds were drawn down in subsequent years and the project was successfully completed in 2004-05.

Departments: Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many citizens' juries have been arranged by his Department since June 2007; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the estimated cost is of each exercise. [159496]

Margaret Hodge: My Department has not arranged any citizens' juries since June 2007.

Departments: Retirement

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each executive agency funded by his Department applied to continue to work beyond state retirement age in the latest year or part thereof for which figures are available; and how many of those applications were successful. [161283]

Mr. Sutcliffe: All permanent staff in the Department for Culture; Media and Sport (DCMS) and The Royal Parks Agency (RPA) may continue to work up to the normal departmental/agency retirement age of 65, subject to the general health, efficiency and attendance standards. In the current year only one employee in DCMS has applied to defer retirement and continue to work beyond the departmental retirement age. The application was successful. No employees in RPA have applied to defer their retirement.

Departments: Standards

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what public service agreement targets have been set for *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* non-departmental public bodies for which his Department has responsibility since May 1997; and whether each target has been met. [161375]

Margaret Hodge: Public service agreements (PSAs) apply only to Government Departments. The Department published its first set of PSAs in December 1998 and agreed a measurement methodology in March 1999. Since then we have agreed new PSAs with HM Treasury as part of each subsequent spending review (SR). We publicly report progress against these targets in our departmental annual report (DAR) and autumn performance report (APR) each year, copies of which can be found in the House Library. A full list of our PSAs and their outcomes is given as follows:

SR period	*No.*	*Indicative title*	*Outcome*
1998	1	Promote creative industries	Met
1998	2	Promote tourism	Met
1998	3	Develop broadcasting regulatory system	Met
1998	4	Promote broadcasting	Met
1998	5	Ensure quality of public service broadcasting	Met
1998	6	Implement a film strategy	Met
1998	7	Increase visitors to national museums	Met
1998	8	Increase access to performing arts	Met
1998	9	Raise standards of care of collections	Met
1998	10	Increase involvement of priority groups	Met
1998	11	Maintain standards and diversity in broadcasting	Met
1998	12	Increase arts education sessions	Met
1998	13	Ensure 75 per cent. of libraries have internet	Met
1998	14	NDPB funding conditional on improvements	Met
1998	15	Review national museums and galleries	Met
1998	16	Establish new funding bodies	Met
1998	17	Establish UK Film Council	Met
1998	18	Transfer responsibilities to English Heritage	Partially met
1998	19	Establish National Lottery Commission	Met
1998	20	Develop strategic plans for Lottery funding	Met
1998	21	Devolve decision making to regions	Met
2000	1	All public libraries have internet access	Met
2000	2	Introduce 12 Creative Partnerships	Met
2000	3	Raise time spent on sport by children	Not met
2000	4	Increase child visits to museums and galleries	Met
2000	5	Increase arts participation	Met
2000	6	Conduct review of NDPBs	Met
2002	1	Increase school sport	Met

SR period	No.	Indicative title	Outcome
2002	2	Increase cultural and sport opportunities	Partially met
2002	3	Increase productivity	Ongoing
2002	4	Improve value for money NDPBs	Met
2004	1	Increase school sport	Ongoing
2004	2	Halt increase in obesity	Ongoing
2004	3	Increase cultural and sporting opportunities	Ongoing
2004	4	Improve productivity	Ongoing

Further details of each PSA can be found in the relevant DAR or APR.

English Heritage: Finance

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what contribution English Heritage was projected to make to departmental savings as part of the Lyons Review; and what proportion of those savings have been realised. [159536]

Margaret Hodge: English Heritage projected that 255 posts would be moved from London and the South East. To date 61 have moved from London. English Heritage are planning further moves to buildings in Swindon after refurbishment work to the buildings is completed by summer 2008.

English Heritage: Greater London

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what consideration English Heritage has given to the use of London office space available through the Office of Government Commerce. [159537]

Margaret Hodge: In choosing where to relocate its permanent headquarters from Savile Row, English Heritage considered nine Office of Government Commerce buildings. The building it chose, 1 Waterhouse Square, was one of these.

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what projections were made of the number of staff of English Heritage who would move to 1 Waterhouse Square, London. [159541]

Margaret Hodge: English Heritage planned for 71 members of staff to relocate to 1, Waterhouse Square, London by June 2006, and for this figure to increase to 245 by March 2007.

By March 2007 254 staff were located in Waterhouse Square. Waterhouse Square is also being used for an interim period to support the phased relocation of staff to Swindon. This means that numbers will fluctuate as the project proceeds.

Gaming Machines

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to review the number of category B3 machines permitted in adult amusement centres. [161396]

Mr. Sutcliffe: From 1 September 2007 adult gaming centres were, for the first time, entitled to a maximum of four category B3 machines. B3 gaming machines have a maximum stake of £1 and a maximum prize of £500.

There are no plans to review the number of category B3 machines that adult gaming centres can make available.

Licensed Premises: Offenders

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what measures are in place to prevent licensed premises being directly owned by *(a)* persons who have criminal convictions that would prevent them from holding an alcohol licence and *(b)* companies who have such a person as a director or company secretary. [160877]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 25 October 2007]:* There are no rules relating to the ownership of licensed premises but the decision to grant the premises licence lies with the licensing authority.

The Licensing Act (Section 17) sets out the application process for the granting of premises licences at which time the responsible authorities, including the police, have the opportunity to examine the application and object if they think there will be an impact on any of the four licensing objectives (including to the prevention of crime and disorder). Similarly, the Act (Section 42) sets how a premises licence can be transferred and the police have the right of objection to a transfer on grounds of crime prevention. Objections by the police can be against a person or a company.

Licensed Premises: Sales

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what disclosures are required by the owners of a licensed premises who are offering premises for sale on *(a)* incidents of a criminal nature recorded, *(b)* requirements placed on the premises or on current or previous licensees of the premises by (i) the licensing body and (ii) the courts, *(c)* reviews of the licence for the premises and *(d)* removal of licensees and transferral of licences for the premises. [160878]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 25 October 2007]:* There is no requirement under the Licensing Act 2003 for owners to disclose this information when their premises are offered for sale.

However, the buyer has the right as does any member of the public, to look at the local licensing authority register to check what actions may have been taken in respect of the licence and they may undertake other checks as part of the conveyancing process.

Local Broadcasting: Television

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with broadcasters on regional television news broadcasting. [161307]

James Purnell: I discussed ITV's proposals for changes in regional news provision with its Executive Chairman, Michael Grade, when I met him last month. I understand that these proposals, which require Ofcom's permission, will be considered by Ofcom as part of its broader review of public service television broadcasting which is currently under way.

Museums and Galleries: Finance

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding he has allocated to the Renaissance in the Regions programme; and if he will make a statement. [161561]

Margaret Hodge: We will continue to invest in our regional museums and galleries over the next three years, with an inflation-proof settlement which will mean that funding for the Renaissance in the Regions programme will increase from £45 million this year, to over £48.7 million in 2010-11. Government will have invested £292 million to support regional museums between 2002 and 2011.

	Total (£ million)
2002-03	10
2003-04	11.2
2004-05	21
2005-06	30
2006-07	32
2007-08	45
2008-09	46.2
2009-10	47.4
2010-11	48.7

National Lottery: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on National Lottery tickets in London in the last year for which figures are available; what revenue for the National Lottery Distribution Fund such spending gave rise to; how much was distributed to good causes and projects in London in the same period; and if he will make a statement. [161534]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The national lottery operator, Camelot, do not collect ticket sales information on a constituency, district, county or regional basis, nor do they routinely collect ticket sales data based on postcodes. The most up-to-date sales data by postcode area are available in the Libraries of both Houses and provide information up to 2004. It is not, therefore possible to say how much was raised for good causes by lottery sales in London. However, we do have information on how much was awarded by lottery distributors to the region of London.

2,258 grants with a total value of £115,464,000 have been awarded by lottery distributors in London, in the last complete financial year (2006-07). These figures are for grants that are recorded on the Department's lottery grants database as location specific. The database is searchable at www.lottery.culture.gov.uk and uses information supplied by the lottery distributors.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1177W, on Olympic Games: Greater London, how many private partners have so far committed to funding the UK-wide cultural festival as part of the Cultural Olympiad; how much funding these private partners have so far committed to provide; and how much funding he expects to receive from private partners. [161638]

Margaret Hodge: This is a matter for the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games (LOCOG). LOCOG are discussing with their official partners a range of opportunities to contribute to the Cultural Olympiad. LOCOG will aim to maximise the funding available for the Cultural Olympiad but will also encourage partnerships with a wide range of public sector arts and cultural funding bodies.

Radio: Grants

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what grants are available from his Department for local community radio stations to apply for. [161217]

James Purnell: My Department does not make grants directly to community radio stations, but provides some funding to Ofcom to enable it to make such grants under section 359 of the Communications Act 2003. Grants totalling £1.577 million have been made to community radio stations since February 2006.

Regional Cultural Consortiums

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on regional cultural consortiums in each year since their formation. [159477]

Margaret Hodge: My Department's spend on the Regional Cultural Consortiums in each year since their formation is as follows:

	Spend (£)
1999-2000[1]	11,063
2000-01	239,301
2001-02	195,248
2002-03	840,185
2003-04	1,569,539
2004-05	1,674,000
2005-06	1,841,000
2006-07	1,720,000

[1] The Regional Cultural Consortiums were established in October 1999.

Sports: Schools

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of children attending *(a)* schools in a School Sport Partnership, *(b)* schools not in a School Sport Partnership and *(c)* all schools participate in at least two hours of school sport each week. [160141]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 25 October 2007]:* All maintained schools in England are now in one of 450 School Sport Partnerships.

The 2006-07 School Sport Survey showed that 86 per cent. of pupils in partnership schools participate in at least two hours of high quality physical education and school sport each week.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many of the 225 competition managers announced on 13 July 2007 have been appointed. [161462]

Mr. Sutcliffe: 75 competition managers have now been appointed. A further 16 competition managers are currently being recruited, which will bring the total to 91 by April 2008.

Recruitment of a final wave of competition managers to bring the number to at least 225 will begin from January 2008.

Stonehenge

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made on the English Heritage Stonehenge Visitors Centre project; and if he will make a statement. [161077]

Margaret Hodge: Planning consent was granted for the Stonehenge Visitor Centre in March 2007, subject to conditions, one of which is that improvements to the A303 go ahead, as set out in the published Stonehenge Improvement Order 2000.

The Government are currently considering the findings of the A303 review of options and progress on the visitor centre rests on the outcome of this review.

The Government's intention is to make an announcement very soon.

Television: Licensing

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make a statement on the BBC licence fee settlement. [161010]

James Purnell: The settlement is fair and realistic. It will allow the BBC to secure the effective promotion of its Public Purposes, as set out in the Charter and Agreement.

Theatre: East Midlands

Mr. Skinner: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much public funding was made available to theatre companies in the East Midlands in each year between 1998 and 2006. [161442]

Margaret Hodge: The following figures provide a breakdown of Arts Council England grant in aid for regularly funded theatre organisations in the East Midlands between 1999 and 2006.

Regularly funded organisations East Midlands

	£
1999-2000	2,353,160
2000-01	2,681,025
2001-02	2,729,995
2002-03	3,431,850
2003-04	4,354,645
2004-05	4,592,663
2005-06	4,665,105
2006-07	4,710,405

Figures prior to 1999 are not held in electronic form and would have to be sourced from paper records that are held in archive. For this reason it is not possible for Arts Council England to provide figures for 1998 in time for the deadline.

The following figures provide a breakdown of lottery money allocated to theatre companies in the East Midlands between 1997-98 and 2006-07.

Lottery grants East Midlands

	£
1997-98	2,280,736
1998-99	343,538
1999-2000	149,817
2000-01	1,770,033
2001-02	636,211
2002-03	195,191
2003-04	1,607,699
2004-05	12,928,315
2005-06	1,033,633
2006-07	595,069

The following figures show the total funding made available to theatre companies in the East Midlands, excluding any grant in aid in 1997-98 and 1998-99.

Total public funding East Midlands

	£
1997-98	2,280,736
1998-99	343,538
1999-2000	2,502,977
2000-01	4,451,058
2001-02	3,366,206
2002-03	3,627,041
2003-04	5,962,344
2004-05	17,520,978
2005-06	5,698,738
2006-07	5,305,474

Tourism

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate his Department has made of the average percentage change in the productivity of *(a)* the creative industries and *(b)* the tourism industry in each year since 1998. [160160]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 25 October 2007]:* The table shows the annual and average percentage productivity changes from 1998 onwards for both the creative and tourism and leisure industries. For comparison reasons information on 'All Services' and 'Whole Economy' are also included.

Annual and average percentage productivity changes from 1998 onwards

Percentage

	Sector			
	Creative industries (excl. design and craft)	*Tourism-related and other leisure*	*All services*	*Whole economy*
1999	3.3	3.0	1.2	1.6
2000	3.5	4.1	2.7	2.9
2001	-3.1	3.2	1.7	1.5
2002	-0.9	3.3	0.9	1.0
2003	1.5	-0.1	1.2	1.8
2004	6.8	1.9	2.3	2.5
2005	6.4	0.4	1.6	1.1
Average 1998-2005	2.9	2.6	1.9	2.1

Source:
Estimates based on the Annual Business Inquiry (ABI), Office for National Statistics

Further explanation of this trend is provided in the DCMS annual report 2007, copies of which are available in the Library of the House, though figures for 2004 and 2005 may now differ due to more recent revisions of source data.

"Tourism and leisure" is presented as a combined sector to smooth out potential volatility in the series caused by fluctuations in levels of gross value added (GVA) or employment in any one particular industry. Combining these two small sectors allows better understanding of the overall trends.

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many tourists visited the UK in 2006; what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the effect of tourism in that year on the UK economy; and if he will make a statement. [160708]

Margaret Hodge: In 2006 there were an estimated 32 million visits to the UK by overseas residents, in addition to the 126.3 million overnight trips within the UK taken by UK residents. The latest information available on tourism day trips estimated that 870 million were taken in 2005 by English residents within England.

No calculations have yet been made on the overall contribution of the tourism industry to the UK economy in 2006. However, estimates from earlier years suggest that the contribution will be in the region of 3.5 per cent. of UK gross value added (GVA).

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I work to ensure that the importance of tourism is made clear across the Government, and DCMS has regular discussions with HM Treasury on the tourism industry.

Tourism: Finance

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funds were provided for the promotion of Great Britain as a tourist destination abroad in the last year for which figures are available; and how much was provided in each year since 1997. [157306]

Margaret Hodge: Since 2002-03, DCMS has funded the overseas promotion of Great Britain through VisitBritain. Up to 2001-02, funding for that purpose was made available to the British Tourist Authority.

VisitBritain's overseas marketing budget for 2006-07 was £35.5 million. Previous years' allocations were as follows:

	Amount (£ million)
The British Tourist Authority	
1997-98	35.0
1998-99	35.0
1999-2000	36.0
2000-01	37.0
2001-02	35.5
VisitBritain	
2002-03	35.5
2003-04	35.5
2004-05	35.5
2005-06	35.5

A further £19 million was made available to the British Tourist Authority in 2001-02, as funding for the Million Visitor Campaign following the foot and mouth crisis and 9/11.

The regional development agencies and local authorities also invest substantial amounts in supporting the tourist industry, and this includes elements of overseas promotion. In 2006-07, the agencies spent £43.5 million on tourism support, and local authorities an estimated £120 million.

Travel Information

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many tourist information centres there are; and how many there were in 1997. [161398]

Margaret Hodge: There are currently around 500 tourist information centres in England. Unfortunately, the data were not collected for 1997.

Video Games: Children

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what policies his Department implemented as a result of the recommendations made in *(a)* the 2001 Home Office review of the effect of computer games on young

children and *(b)* the 2005 Stirling review of research on the impact of violent computer games on young people. [161374]

Margaret Hodge: Both of these reports found no conclusive evidence of a link between playing violent games and behaving violently in real life. Both reports confirmed therefore that the current regulatory regime is satisfactory. However, following concerns expressed by some people, we worked with the games industry on a package of measures designed to ensure that parents had sufficient knowledge about a game's contents so that they could make an informed decision when purchasing the game for their children. These measures included bigger classification symbols; advice explaining the type of content; strengthened guidance for retail staff; all games for adults to be classified by the British Board of Film Classification even if there is no statutory requirement to do so; and a website publicised by five million leaflets where parents can learn about the content of games and their classification.

We are keen to ensure that children are not exposed to inappropriate materials so we keep these measures under review. Currently, Dr. Tanya Byron is leading an independent review which is looking at the risks to children from exposure to potentially harmful or inappropriate material on the internet and in video games.

Video Games: Safety

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will introduce legislation to make it a requirement for screen-based electronic games publishers to *(a)* test their products prior to publication to ensure that they do not cause serious photosensitive epileptic seizure and *(b)* provide warnings that their products could trigger photosensitive epileptic seizures. [155995]

Mr. Thomas: I have been asked to reply.

We believe there is already adequate legislation in the form of the General Product Safety Regulations 2005, which require consumer products to carry adequate warnings and instructions for use.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Adoption: Babies

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department provides financial incentives to local authorities to increase take-up of adoptions of babies under the age of six months. [149433]

John Healey *[pursuant to the reply 17 July 2007, Official Report, c. 215-6W]:* The correct information is as follows:

The Department for Communities and Local Government and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister before it has since 2000 provided a system of performance incentivisation for local authorities in England across a range of service areas. This system operated via the Local Public Service Agreements (LPSA), which have since been merged with Local Area Agreements (LAA). These agreements offered a reward grant to local authorities who could deliver outcomes over and above the level of performance Government would otherwise expect.

64 local authorities chose to include in their LPSA or LAA a measure performance on adoption and/or stability of placements for looked-after children, though the targets would not refer specifically to babies under the age of six months. Reward would be payable to local authorities and their partners for achievement of these particular targets, and in a number of cases this has now been claimed. Details on each target have been made available in the Library of the House, though we do not have data on the age of the children adopted in local authority areas.

Buildings: Energy

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she will announce details of the qualifications, training and accreditation required for those producing display energy certificates and advisory reports as required by the Energy Performance of Buildings (Certificates and Inspections) (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. [159574]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 19 October 2007]:* The national occupational standards which offer the framework for training and development are already in place. Relevant qualifications are under preparation. CLG has invited potential accreditation schemes to apply. Details can be found at www.communities.gov.uk/epbd.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the operational rating methodology for the display energy certificates software and accompanying guidance notes will be published; and if she will make a statement. [159575]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 19 October 2007]:* The operational rating methodology for display energy certificate software is currently under development and a preliminary version has been issued for testing. The final version of the software and accompanying guidance is scheduled to be published before the end of the year.

Climate Change

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which organisations have representatives on *(a)* the Government's Zero Carbon Homes Taskforce and *(b)* her Department's Climate Change Planning Policy Statement Sounding Board; [157352]

(2) which local planning authorities were invited to the last meeting of her Department's Climate Change Planning Policy Statement Sounding Board. [157353]

Yvette Cooper: The organisations that sit on the Government's 2016 Zero Carbon Homes Taskforce alongside myself and the Minister for Energy are:

Home Builders Federation
Local Government Association
WWF
UK Green Building Council
UK Business Council for Sustainable Energy
Calcutt Review of Housing Delivery
Construction Products Association
Town and Country Planning Association
National House Building Council
Renewable Energy Advisory Board

Invitations to the sounding board for the planning policy statement (PPS) on planning and climate change have been personal to the individual concerned, and made so as to bring together a range of expertise and know-how to inform the development of the PPS. Although participants were not contributing as representatives of their parent organisations, participants from the following organisations have sat on the sounding board.

British Property Federation
Confederation of British Industry
English Partnerships
Environment Agency
Friends of the Earth
Green Alliance
Home Builders Federation
Local Government Association
London Borough of Enfield
London Borough of Merton
Planning Inspectorate
Royal Town Planning Institute
Solar Century
South East Regional Assembly
Town and Country Planning Association
UK Green Building Council
Wind Prospect Group
WWF

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when her Department's Climate Change Planning Policy Statement sounding board will next meet; and which organisations will be invited to attend. [159384]

Yvette Cooper: No further meetings are currently planned.

Coalfields Regeneration Trust: Finance

Dr. Tony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the future funding of the Coalfields Regeneration Trust. [158691]

Yvette Cooper: The Coalfields Regeneration Trust's current funding agreement for England continues until March 2008. A recent independent evaluation of the CLG coalfield programmes provided strong evidence of the trust's positive impact on our former coalfield communities. In view of the trust's continued good performance, provision is to be made for the continuation of the trust's funding for a further three years. The details of this will be announced shortly.

Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to conduct a review of the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE); and what changes are planned for the design and building standards on which CABE advises. [157650]

Margaret Hodge: I have been asked to reply.

In order to ensure that CABE continues to deliver effectively and in line with our Departmental priorities, DCMS (CABE's sponsor department) and CLG (CABE's co-funder) have agreed with CABE that it is timely to carry out a light touch review of this important independent NDPB. A commitment to carry out this review was included in CLG's recent Housing Green Paper. Terms of reference for the review are being finalised.

The design and building standards on which CABE advises are outside the scope of the review. We have recently made reforms to the planning policy framework and building regulations which has put good design at the heart of decision making and the future housing growth agenda. We will continue to monitor progress to see if any further changes are needed in the future.

Community Development: Expenditure

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) of 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1321W, on community development: expenditure, what the public expenditure has been on the Millennium Communities programme excluding the Greenwich Peninsula site. [145482]

Yvette Cooper: Pursuant to my answer to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath of 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1321W, to date, public expenditure related to the Millennium Communities programme, excluding the Greenwich Peninsula site amounts to a total of £86,561,250.

This amount relates to a wide range of start-up expenditure that is necessary to regenerate difficult brownfield sites and create thriving new communities, such as providing essential infrastructure, sustainable urban drainage systems, community facilities and so on. The Millennium Communities programme as a whole is bringing forward seven new schools and colleges, five new health centres, 10 new public parks and play areas, and eight new community buildings. In addition, over 70,000 sq m of commercial and retail accommodation will be created. As an example, at the New Islington Millennium Community in Manchester the public investment is creating a new canal network, roads and infrastructure, a new primary school, a state of the art health centre, car club, child care facilities, an energy centre and 6,000 sq m of employment floorspace in addition to the 1,400 new homes.

It is anticipated that some 75 per cent. of this public investment will be recouped in due course through receipts. The precise final figure will be known when the sites have been completed and developments sold. In addition, a significant amount of private sector

investment has been levered in to these seven regeneration areas. This is currently some £749 million, which represents a private:public ratio of 8:1.

Council Housing: Property Transfer

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council houses have been transferred to housing association ownership under the large scale voluntary transfer programme; how many were non-decent on the date of transfer; and how many are now non-decent. [157359]

Mr. Iain Wright: Since 1997, 127 local authorities have completed 198 transfers involving 831,481 homes. Since 2001 the number of non-decent homes on the date of transfer has totalled 246,781; numbers of non-decent homes transferring were not recorded prior to this date but we estimate between 1997 and 2001 there were around 155,000 non-decent homes that were transferred. Nearly 139,000 of transferred dwellings have been tackled since 2001 according to RSL data returns, representing a 56 per cent. reduction in the number of non-decent homes.

Council Tax

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the percentage change in Band D council tax has been in *(a)* England and *(b)* St. Albans since 1997-98. [158580]

John Healey: Details of the percentage change in B and D council tax in *(a)* England and *(b)* St. Albans since 1997-98 are available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/data/ctaxtimes.xls

Council Tax: East Midlands

Mr. Skinner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the annual change was in the level of council tax in each district council in the East Midlands in each year since 1996-97; and if she will make a statement. [161438]

John Healey: Details of the percentage change in council tax in each district council in the East Midlands from 1996-97 are available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/data/ctaxtimes.xls

Council Tax: Eastern Region

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the counties in the East of England according to the level of council tax rises *(a)* in each year since 1997, *(b)* between 1997 and 2001, *(c)* between 1997 and 2005, *(d)* between 1997 and 2007 and *(e)* between 2005 and 2007. [159212]

John Healey: Details of the percentage changes in council tax for counties in the East of England in *(a)* each year since 1997-98, *(b)* between 1997-98 and 2001-02, *(c)* between 1997-98 and 2005-06, *(d)* between 1997-98 and 2007-08 and *(e)* between 2005-06 and 2007-08 are shown as follows.

	Bedfordshire	*Cambridgeshire*	*Essex*	*Hertfordshire*	*Norfolk*	*Suffolk*
1997-98 to 1998-99	4.0	10.2	14.9	12.2	15.7	10.0
1998-99 to 1999-2000	9.0	9.9	7.2	9.8	9.8	8.4
1999-2000 to 2000-01	4.9	8.5	8.3	6.5	6.2	7.3
2000-01 to 2001-02	5.8	8.0	7.9	6.0	6.3	6.9
2001-02 to 2002-03	9.9	9.3	9.8	9.5	9.8	11.9
2002-03 to 2003-04	11.8	9.2	16.7	18.2	15.9	18.5
2003-04 to 2004-05	-0.5	2.0	-0.5	5.3	5.8	3.8
2004-05 to 2005-06	4.9	4.0	2.9	4.9	2.9	2.5
2005-06 to 2006-07	4.9	5.0	4.6	5.0	5.0	4.5
2006-07 to 2007-08	4.3	5.0	4.5	5.0	4.7	4.5
1997-98 to 2001-02	25.9	41.8	43.9	39.1	43.3	36.7
1997-98 to 2005-06	61.5	79.6	88.8	98.9	98.4	93.1
1997-98 to 2007-08	76.7	98.0	106.6	119.2	118.2	110.9
2005-06 to 2007-08	9.4	10.2	9.4	10.2	10.0	9.2

These data are taken from the Budget Requirement forms completed annually by all precepting authorities. The information shown only relates to the precept levied by the county council on a Band D two-adult property and does not include council tax levied by shire district, fire or police authorities.

Data between years and authorities are not strictly comparable due to changes in methods of funding and responsibility. In particular, the funding of some fire authorities changed in 2004-05 from being financed by a levy on the county council to the fire authority becoming a precepting authority in their own right. This affected the figures for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Essex.

Council Tax: Emergency Services

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average police and fire levy on Band D council tax in London was in each year from 1997-98 to the creation of the Greater London Authority. [157485]

John Healey: Details of the police and fire levy on Band D two-adult council tax in London from 1997-98 to the creation of the Greater London Authority in 2000-01 are shown in the following table:

£

	London Fire	*Metropolitan Police*
1997-98	25	63
1998-99	26	76
1999-2000	28	83

The data are collected on Budget Requirement returns submitted annually by all billing authorities in England.

Council Tax: Fire Services

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average precept was for *(a)* metropolitan councils, *(b)* county councils, *(c)* district councils, *(d)* unitary councils and *(e)* London boroughs excluding Greater London Authority police and fire on Band D council tax in England in each year from 1997-98 to 2007-08. [157484]

John Healey: District councils, unitary councils and London boroughs are not precepting authorities. Details of the average police and fire authority precept for Band D two-adult properties in England since 1997-98 are shown in the following table:

£

	Metropolitan fire authorities	*Combined fire and rescue authorities*	*Metropolitan police authorities*	*Shire police authorities*
1997-98	—	—	55	53
1998-99	27	—	55	56
1999-2000	30	—	58	61
2000-01	32	—	61	66
2001-02	34	—	64	72
2002-03	36	—	71	85
2003-04	42	—	84	109
2004-05	45	53	93	121
2005-06	47	55	98	127
2006-07	49	58	103	133
2007-08	51	60	107	141

Prior to 2004-05, combined fire and rescue authorities were funded through grants from county councils, and not through a separate council tax precept.

The data are collected on Budget Requirement returns submitted annually by all billing and precepting authorities in England.

Council Tax: Greater London

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average Greater London Authority (GLA) precept on Band D council tax was in each year since the creation of the GLA. [157486]

John Healey: The Greater London Authority (GLA) council tax precept levied on average Band D two-adult properties, in each year since the creation of the GLA, is shown in the following table:

£

2000-01	123
2001-02	151
2002-03	174
2003-04	224
2004-05	241
2005-06	255
2006-07	289
2007-08	304

The data are collected on Budget Requirement returns submitted annually by all billing authorities in England.

Council Tax: Parish Councils

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated average parish council precept on Band D council tax was in 2007-08. [157644]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1674W.

Council Tax: Second Homes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities have used their powers to reduce the council tax discount on *(a)* empty and *(b)* second homes; what revised discount rate each of them have set; and how much was raised collectively in extra council tax as a result in the most recent year for which figures are available. [157451]

John Healey: I have placed in the Library of the House a table showing, for each billing authority, the council tax discounts for second homes and long-term empty homes that were in effect at October 2006.

It is estimated that, in 2006-07, the reduction in discounts for long-term empty homes raised £78.5 million and that the reduction in discounts for second homes raised £98 million.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average Band D council tax for a *(a)* standard two-person adult household and *(b)* one-person adult household was in England in each year since 1997-98. [157696]

John Healey: Details of the average area Band D council tax for a two-adult household in England in each year since 1998-99 can be found on the Communities and Local Government website at:

www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/data/ctax067t1.xls

and

www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/data/ctax078tl.xls

One-adult households receive a 25 per cent. discount on the figures shown.

The data are collected on budget requirement returns submitted annually by all billing authorities in England and include, where applicable, authorities' own council

tax plus council tax collected on behalf of precepting bodies such as county councils, fire authorities and police authorities.

Departments: Cost-effectiveness

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what cash-releasing efficiency savings her Department has made in the last 12 months; at what cost; and in which divisions. [157563]

John Healey: Information on the cash-releasing efficiency savings made in the last 12 months is not available. Some of our workstreams report efficiency gains annually in arrears. We will publish our autumn performance report in November which will include the efficiency savings we have achieved to date including those delivered during 2006-07 and the proportion that is cash-releasing.

Sir Peter Gershon's independent report into public sector efficiency did not require that efficiencies be recorded net of up-front investment costs and Communities and Local Government has followed this advice. As a consequence, the costs of delivering efficiency gains could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. All VFM savings during the CSR07 period will be cash-releasing and net of up-front costs.

EU Grants and Loans

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what research her Department has carried out into the impact of projects supported by European Union Urban II funding in *(a)* Thames Gateway Kent and *(b)* the UK; and if she will make a statement. [158610]

John Healey: In line with European regulations, two national evaluations have already been carried out on the English Urban II programmes, including the Thames Gateway Kent programme. These were the Mid Term Evaluation of 2003 and the subsequent update carried out in 2005. These reports have been accepted by the European Commission, and CLG and the programme managers have been acting on the recommendations within these reports. In addition, each programme produces an Annual Implementation Report summarising key achievements and impacts in the relevant urban areas. Copies of these reports are available from CLG and the Government offices for the regions.

As part of the closure of the Urban II programmes in December 2008, final closure reports are expected to show further evaluation of these programmes and in particular the legacy that they will leave in each region.

Festivals and Special Occasions

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what rules are in place on the staging of outside events; whether any amendments to these rules are being considered; and if she will make a statement. [158725]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 22 October 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

Under the Licensing Act 2003 either a temporary event notice (TEN) or a premises licence is required if any licensable activities take place. A TEN will cover smaller events of less than 500 people at a cost of £21, while a premises licence is required for events with 500 or more people with the cost relating to the amount of people expected. However, if a local authority wishes to subsidise any specific community or charitable events it can do so using methods such as direct funding or internal charging.

My Department published its Register of Local Authority Licensed Public Spaces in England and Wales on 15 January. The register lists those local authorities that have licensed their public spaces to enable a range of events to take place throughout the year. It will help event organisers and entertainers to determine whether licensable activities can take place in a particular location without the need to obtain a separate premises licence, or to give a temporary event notice.

Freedom of Information: Standards

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities make compensation payments to people making requests to them under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 when they fail to meet the deadlines for providing information set out in the Act. [161522]

Mr. Dhanda: Communities and Local Government has no knowledge of such payments being made in these circumstances. There is no provision in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for compensation payments to be made.

Home Condition Reports

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Milton Keynes, South-West (Dr. Starkey) of 8 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1156-57, on home condition reports, who the independent researchers are; and if she will place in the Library a copy of their first report. [153995]

Yvette Cooper: Ipsos MORI have been commissioned, under competitive tender, to independently monitor and evaluate the area trials which are looking particularly at home condition reports.

Full conclusions will not be available until the completion of transactions involving properties in the trials and buyers have been approached as part of the qualitative research. A copy of the research report will be placed in the House Library once the project has been finalised.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 13 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 239W, on home information packs, if she will break down expenditure on home information packs since March 2007. [152419]

Yvette Cooper: An update on programme spend was given in the House on 10 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1308-10.

Since then HIPs and EPCs expenditure has been as follows:

Programme spend 1 July to 30 September 2007

	£
Administration costs[1]	413,000
Legal fees	—
Outside expertise	291,000
Website Costs	67,000
Area Trials	—
Research	—
Communications, publicity and publishing	1,650,000
Agency Staff	69,000
Other costs	10,000
Total	2,500,000

[1] Includes Departmental staff working on HIPs and EPC development, management and implementation.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the effect of the introduction of home information packs on the housing market. [158245]

Yvette Cooper: Home information packs have helped reduce search costs and promote early information in the housing market. Economists are clear that interest rates, house prices, stock market uncertainty and concerns about sub prime lending continue to be the most significant factors determining the behaviour of the housing market.

We know some estate agents have been encouraging sellers to put their homes on to the market in advance of the HIPs deadlines. Short-term transitional effects on the timings of new listings are unsurprising. We continue to monitor the overall impact of the introduction of home information packs.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to her statement of 6 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 632, on home information packs, what definition her Department uses of a *(a)* stakeholder and *(b)* vested interest. [158427]

Yvette Cooper: There were no statements on HIPs in the House of Commons on 6 May 2007.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has spent on *(a)* administration, *(b)* legal fees, *(c)* special advisers, *(d)* the website and *(e)* other costs relating to the home information packs programme. [158668]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) today (Question 152419).

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* lowest and *(b)* highest cost has been of a home information pack; and what the reported (i) longest and (ii) shortest time taken to compile a pack has been. [159447]

Yvette Cooper: Our monitoring arrangements do not capture specific data on the longest and shortest time taken to compile a home information pack, or the lowest and highest cost. Our monitoring shows that most HIPs are being provided within five to seven working days and that the current average market price of an HIP is £300 to £350 plus VAT.

Home Information Packs: Consultants

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what external consultancy or research organisations her Department and its predecessor has contracted to work on home information packs since 2002; what the topic of their research or advice was; and how much has been spent on each. [152519]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) on 8 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 1568W. Since then a further £2,005,259 has been spent.

In addition we have commissioned research on the following topics since 2002. Tenders submitted were evaluated against the Department's assessment of value for money and procurement framework. Costs set out are exclusive of VAT.

Topic	*Organisation*	*Cost (£)*
Area trials	Ipsos MORI	590,373
Economic analysis	Europe Economics	43,321
DEAs and HIs	Asset Skills	21,110
	BRE	28,900
	Ipsos MORI	41,784
Searches	CIPFA	8,000
	KPMG	187,000
Evaluation	Ipsos MORI and BRE	361,729
	Spark Research	10,500
Awareness	GFK NOP	83,000
	NOP	22,000
HCRs	BRE	308,057
	BRE	102,915
	BRE	9,970

Home Information Packs: Europe Economics

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to the public purse is of commissioning Europe Economics for its work on home information packs. [152416]

Yvette Cooper: Europe Economics were commissioned, under competitive tender, to carry out two short-term pieces of work on home information packs.

Their economic analysis of Energy Performance in Buildings Directive (EPBD) Impact Assessment totalled £18,841.

Their research of housing market analysis in the context of the introduction of Home Information Packs amounted to £39,684.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place the research by Europe Economics on home information packs in the Library. [152417]

Yvette Cooper: A copy of their report will be placed in the Library once the project is finalised.

Home Information Packs: Pilot Schemes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what independent assessments there have been of the home information pack dry-runs and pilots; [157454]

(2) if she will place in the Library a copy of the evaluation reports for the dry-runs and pilots of the Home Information Pack. [157474]

Yvette Cooper: Ipsos MORI were commissioned, under competitive tender, to conduct independent research into the HIPs area trials which are looking particularly at the Home Condition Reports.

Full conclusions will not be available until the completion of transactions involving properties in the trials and buyers have been approached as part of the qualitative research. A copy of the research report will be placed in the House Library once the project has been finalised.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the names and positions are of the members of the stakeholder working party set up for the home information packs pilot schemes; and on what dates the working party met. [157490]

Yvette Cooper: Industry participation in the area trials was on a voluntary basis and stakeholder groups were not formed to work on the pilot schemes.

Home Information Packs: Prices

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average market price, including VAT, has been of a home information pack for a *(a)* four and *(b)* three bedroom (i) freehold and (ii) leasehold home. [159133]

Yvette Cooper: Early indications show that the current average market price of a HIP is £300 to £350 plus VAT. This includes both three and four-bedroom leasehold and freehold properties.

Homelessness: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many persons aged *(a)* under 16, *(b)* 16, *(c)* 17, *(d)* 18 and *(e)* over 18 were (i) registered homeless with and (ii) on the housing waiting lists of each London borough in the latest period for which figures are available. [161524]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information is as follows.

(i) Information about local authorities' actions under homelessness legislation is collected in respect of households rather than persons. The number of households accepted by local authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty, is not collected by specific ages, but data are provided by the age band into which the applicant falls, the first of which is those applicants who are aged between 16 and 24 years old (all applicants must be 16 or over).

The following table shows the total number of acceptances where the applicant was aged (a) between 16 and 24 years old, and (b) 25 years old and over, by each London borough, for the most recent quarter for which information is available—April to June 2007.

Table 1: Households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty, by age of applicant, April-June 2007

	Applicant aged 16-24 years old	*Applicant aged 25 or over*
Barking and Dagenham	42	40
Barnet	40	61
Bexley	19	37
Brent	82	158
Bromley	61	89
Camden	13	42
City of London	0	1
Croydon	49	63
Ealing	49	77
Enfield	76	80
Greenwich	35	39
Hackney	70	115
Hammersmith and Fulham	18	31
Haringey	20	64
Harrow	19	44
Havering	21	27
Hillingdon	25	82
Hounslow	49	47
Islington	62	86
Kensington and Chelsea	11	42
Kingston upon Thames	26	40
Lambeth	60	57
Lewisham	47	49
Merton	7	17
Newham	31	48
Redbridge	35	73
Richmond upon Thames	14	8
Southwark	80	75
Button	27	33
Tower Hamlets	43	85
Waltham Forest	51	94
Wandsworth	56	69
Westminster	33	75

Source:
P1E Quarterly Homelessness returns

Data on acceptances are also collected by the priority need category of acceptances, and include those applicants accepted as in priority need primarily through being 16 or 17 years old. However it is important to note that some 16 and 17 year olds applicants may have been accepted in alternative primary priority need categories, for example through

having dependant children or being a pregnant woman, and so will not show up in these figures. Some authorities report secondary priority need categories of applicants (when they fall into more than one priority need group), and these figures are also presented.

The following table presents 16 or 17 year old priority need acceptance data, both primary and secondary (when reported), for each London borough, for the most recent quarter for which information is available—April to June 2007. Note that there will be overlap with those households reported in table 1.

Table 2: Households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty, by priority need category, April-June 2007

	Applicant in priority need primarily through being 16 or 17 years old	*Applicant with a secondary priority need of being 16 or 17 years old*
Barking and Dagenham	10	1
Barnet	20	—
Bexley	3	1
Brent	30	0
Bromley	18	—
Camden	2	—
City of London	0	0
Croydon	0	—
Ealing	15	—
Enfield	24	1
Greenwich	8	—
Hackney	23	3
Hammersmith and Fulham	12	0
Haringey	5	6
Harrow	1	1
Havering	1	0
Hillingdon	1	0
Hounslow	10	1
Islington	16	3
Kensington and Chelsea	0	0
Kingston upon Thames	0	—
Lambeth	20	1
Lewisham	14	—
Merton	3	0
Newham	5	—
Redbridge	9	—
Richmond upon Thames	8	10
Southwark	21	0
Button	11	0
Tower Hamlets	5	—
Waltham Forest	10	0
Wandsworth	16	2
Westminster	11	—

'—'Denotes data not reported by LA

Source:

PIE Quarterly Homelessness returns

(ii) Information on the number of persons on the housing waiting list, broken down by age, is not collected centrally.

However, the number of households on the waiting list for social housing in each London borough in each year since 1997, as at 1 April each year, is published on the Communities and Local Government website in table 600. Note that the figures include all households on the waiting list, and not only those that are homeless. The link for this table is given as follows:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/144458

Hometrack

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) of 26 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 633W, on Hometrack, if she will place in the Library the written consultation representations from Hometrack. [152685]

Yvette Cooper: Representations from Hometrack were received in relation to improving the efficiency of the mortgage lending process and in connection with their application to become "early adopters" of home information packs. None of these exchanges were part of a public consultation exercise.

Housing Benefit: Sandwell

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average level of housing benefit was for *(a)* local authority tenants, *(b)* registered social landlord tenants and *(c)* private sector tenants in Sandwell Metropolitan borough council in each of the last five years. [161272]

Mr. Plaskitt: I have been asked to reply.

The information is in the following table.

Average amount of housing benefit paid to tenants in Sandwell Metropolitan borough council area by tenure

£ per week

	2003	*2004*	*February 2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Local Authority Tenants	47.30	48.59	50.16	51.45	53.02
Registered Social Landlord Tenants	65.70	60.89	62.56	65.22	61.44
Private Tenants[1]	72.69	68.09	72.19	77.60	73.05
All tenants	51.90	52.04	54.17	56.27	56.70

[1] Private tenants includes regulated tenants, deregulated tenants and other private tenants. It excludes registered social landlord tenants.

Notes:

1. The data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The average amounts have been rounded to the nearest penny.
3. Housing benefit figures exclude any extended payment cases.

Source:

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in the quarters shown.

Housing Low Incomes

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were built by registered social landlords in each London constituency in each year since 2003; and if she will make a statement. [161536]

Mr. Iain Wright: The table shows new build completions through Housing Corporation Affordable Housing Programme, Transitional Local Authority Social Housing Grant and Thames Gateway investment via registered social landlords (RSLs) for each London borough between 2003-04 and 2006-07.

These figures include new build completions for affordable housing, social rent and low cost home ownership. Figures do not include homes provided through Section 106 without grant or through direct investment by RSLs, and therefore may be understating the number of new homes provided by RSLs.

New build homes provided by RSLs through housing corporation investment

Local authority	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
City of London	0	81	230	128
Barking and Dagenham	182	194	240	265
Barnet	88	170	289	32
Bexley	31	55	58	101
Brent	296	256	173	504
Bromley	70	93	232	153
Camden	22	138	147	112
Croydon	57	123	216	385
Ealing	180	315	247	434
Enfield	223	244	244	301
Greenwich	432	347	200	467
Hackney	345	230	182	443
Hammersmith and Fulham	381	213	78	461
Haringey	271	195	427	235
Harrow	67	47	41	110
Havering	43	96	69	129
Hillingdon	129	124	98	102
Hounslow	236	113	261	431
Islington	251	173	522	762
Kensington and Chelsea	169	8	44	81
Kingston upon Thames	29	165	18	59
Lambeth	267	162	442	130
Lewisham	256	383	251	172
Merton	40	92	102	138
Newham	149	273	264	434
Redbridge	119	100	107	264
Richmond upon Thames	96	186	91	41
Southwark	346	503	216	617
Sutton	86	264	321	113
Tower Hamlets	231	114	425	1,005
Waltham Forest	177	56	188	236
Wandsworth	49	295	104	211
Westminster	73	227	285	51
New build total	5,391	6,035	6,812	9,107
Acquisition and refurbishment	5,382	3,342	4,192	2,486

Notes:
1. Transitional LASHG concluded in 2005-06.
2. Homes provided through starter home initiative are included in the acquisition and refurbishment figures.
3. As shown in the table a further 15,402 homes for either social rent, intermediate rent or low cost home ownership were provided by RSLs, with housing corporation investment, through acquisition and refurbishment over these four years.

Source:
Housing Corporation IMS system

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many units of social housing were available in each London constituency in each year since 2003; and if she will make a statement. [161544]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on social housing by constituency is not held centrally.

The numbers of social rent dwellings in London that are owned or managed by local authorities and registered social landlords (RSLs) are tabulated as follows.

Social dwelling stock (local authority and registered social landlords) by local authority area, London

1 April	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Barking and Dagenham	25,170	23,700	23,401	22,850
Barnet	18,591	18,165	17,715	17,174
Bexley	13,156	13,061	13,239	12,524
Brent	24,209	24,279	24,083	23,561
Bromley	18,154	18,018	18,133	17,413
Camden	37,096	36,649	35,145	34,457
City of London	746	764	725	725
Croydon	24,343	23,881	23,806	23,717
Ealing	23,425	22,927	22,882	22,507
Enfield	18,989	18,429	18,220	18,169
Greenwich	37,056	36,024	35,427	35,213
Hackney	49,177	46,471	45,824	44,591
Hammersmith and Fulham	26,325	25,977	25,504	25,045
Haringey	28,211	27,545	27,394	26,603
Harrow	9,162	8,492	8,533	8,337
Havering	13,651	13,256	13,318	13,111
Hillingdon	16,164	16,118	16,228	16,156
Hounslow	20,552	19,778	19,355	18,762
Islington	42,888	42,097	41,590	40,632
Kensington and Chelsea	20,252	20,415	20,312	20,117
Kingston upon Thames	7,241	7,153	7,201	6,907
Lambeth	53,006	49,942	48,637	48,034
Lewisham	39,839	37,985	37,034	36,276
Merton	11,600	11,056	11,179	11,023
Newham	32,096	30,381	30,061	29,602
Redbridge	9,481	9,470	9,352	9,332
Richmond upon Thames	9,746	9,673	9,748	9,651
Southwark	60,210	58,590	57,857	55,525
Sutton	12,154	11,273	11,379	11,100
Tower Hamlets	41,725	40,191	39,391	39,037
Waltham Forest	24,020	21,689	21,094	20,964
Wandsworth	28,705	27,888	27,628	26,795
Westminster	27,858	27,174	26,893	27,040
Total London	824,998	798,511	788,288	772,950

Source:
Includes local authority stock from the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix as reported by local authorities, and registered social landlords stock from regulatory statistical return as reported by registered social landlords.

RSL stock includes supported/older people self contained units and bed spaces.

Housing: Carbon Emissions

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment was made of the merits of appointing a representative of the UK's renewable energy industry to the Government Zero Carbon Homes Taskforce. [158638]

Yvette Cooper: A representative of the renewables industry is now a full member of the 2016 Taskforce in addition to the UK Business Council for Sustainable Energy, the UK Green Building Council and the Minister of State for Energy.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will list the representatives of the onsite renewable energy sector who are full members of her Department's Zero Carbon Homes Taskforce; [159362]

(2) who the members are of her Department's Zero Carbon Homes Taskforce. [159363]

Yvette Cooper: The 2016 task force includes members of a number of organisations working on the programme for zero carbon homes.

I am a member of the task force, as is my hon. Friend the Minister for Energy at the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Other members are:

Stewart Baseley, Executive Chairman, Home Builders Federation.

John Callcutt, Chair, Callcutt Review of Housebuilding Delivery.

Paul King, Chief Executive, UK Green Building Council.

Michael Ankers, Chief Executive, Construction Products Association.

David Green, Chief Executive, UK Business Council for Sustainable Energy.

Martin Wheatley, Programme Director, Local Government Association.

Simon McWhirter, Senior Campaigns Officer, WWF.

Gideon Amos, Chief Executive, Town and Country Planning Association.

Imtiaz Farookhi, Chief Executive, National House Building Council.

Matthew Spencer, Chair of the Renewable Energy Advisory Board Subgroup on Microgen.

Housing: Energy

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of private sector houses built in each of the last three years met the energy efficiency standards required of public sector housing; and when she expects the same standards to be required in both sectors. [153350]

Mr. Iain Wright: Prior to April 2007 we did not collect information on the energy efficiency standards of either public sector housing or private sector housing. However, since April 2007 when the Code for Sustainable Homes was introduced in England, all Government-funded homes and homes built on land owned by English Partnerships will be built to Code level 3, which is a 25 per cent. improvement on minimum energy efficiency standards set down in Part L of the Building Regulations. It is too early to say what proportion of private sector housing will be built to Code level 3.

All new homes, whether built by the private or public sector, are required to meet the minimum energy efficiency standards set down in Part L of the Building Regulations. Following extensive consultation with the home building industry, environmental groups and other stakeholders, on 23 July 2007 the Government confirmed, in its Housing Green Paper, its intention to increase the energy efficiency standards of new homes above 2006 levels by 25 per cent. in 2010, 44 per cent. in 2013 and for all new homes to be zero carbon by 2016.

Housing: Floods

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much development is expected to take place on flood plains under the building plans laid out in the prevailing Regional Planning Guidance Notes. [153798]

Yvette Cooper: Regional Spatial Strategies (previously Regional Planning Guidance) are not generally site specific so this is information is not available.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many of the 160,000 homes to be built under the Government target for the Thames Gateway Interim Plan will be in a flood risk area; and if she will make a statement. [158452]

Yvette Cooper: The Thames Gateway has the capacity to provide up to 160,000 homes between 2001 and 2016. Growth will be largely concentrated on previously developed land in existing urban areas that are already protected by a very high standard of flood defences.

Strategic flood risk assessments have been carried out across the Thames Gateway to assess flood risk and inform planning decisions.

Housing: Foreigners

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many individuals who are not UK citizens were housed by *(a)* Cross Keys Homes and *(b)* other registered social landlords in Peterborough, under the auspices of Regulations c, d and e of the 2006 EEA Regulations in each month since May 2004; and if she will make a statement. [161305]

Yvette Cooper: Information on individuals who are not UK citizens who were housed under the auspices of Regulations c, d, and e is not currently available.

Housing: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of *(a)* housing association and *(b)* private sector housing in each London constituency was judged to be unfit in each of the last five years. [159000]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information is collected for local authorities, rather than for constituencies. The percentages of *(a)* housing association dwellings and *(b)* private sector dwellings, within each London local authority, judged to be unfit in each of the last five years are provided in tables 1 and 2, respectively. The percentages are calculated from data reported by local authorities in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns.

Table 1: Unfit dwellings within housing associations, as reported by local authorities

	2002	2003	2004	2005	Percentage 2006
Barking and Dagenham	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1.3
Barnet	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Bexley	0.0	0.0	12.8	0.0	0.0
Brent	0.4	0.3	2.1	0.4	0.3
Bromley	0.0	4.5	0.3	4.2	4.6
Camden	8.1	8.3	3.6	3.7	1.0
City of London	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Croydon	6.6	6.3	7.0	6.3	2.5
Ealing	1.6	1.2	1.0	0.7	0.6
Enfield	0.0	0.1	0.8	1.1	0.0
Greenwich	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.2	0.0
Hackney	3.5	3.0	0.8	1.8	1.8
Hammersmith and Fulham	1.3	1.3	0.3	0.3	1.3
Haringey	1.0	8.3	8.3	7.4	4.0
Harrow	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.1	1.5
Havering	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	5.9
Hillingdon	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Hounslow	0.0	0.2	0.3	1.4	0.3
Islington	8.0	6.5	6.3	5.6	6.0
Kensington and Chelsea	2.4	2.3	2.4	2.5	2.5
Kingston upon Thames	0.1	0.1	0.0	2.2	0.0
Lambeth	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.2	0.2
Lewisham	0.0	3.4	3.4	3.0	3.0
Merton	0.0	0.0	0.9	1.3	0.0
Newham	1.4	1.4	5.0	8.4	8.4
Redbridge	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Richmond upon Thames	1.4	1.4	1.5	3.9	0.3
Southwark	2.0	5.3	5.1	4.9	4.7
Sutton	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Tower Hamlets	3.2	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.5
Waltham Forest	3.2	2.4	0.7	1.4	6.4
Wandsworth	0.2	4.2	4.2	0.8	0.2
Westminster	8.0	8.1	8.0	8.0	7.8

Table 2: Unfit dwellings within private sector housing, as reported by local authorities

	2002	2003	2004	2005	Percentage 2006
Barking and Dagenham	4.7	4.2	4.4	4.8	4.8
Barnet	5.6	5.8	5.7	5.6	5.6
Bexley	7.0	6.9	4.4	6.6	3.5
Brent	14.6	14.4	6.8	6.6	15.3
Bromley	3.9	5.0	4.9	3.2	3.1
Camden	16.7	16.9	10.0	11.0	11.1
City of London	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Croydon	8.3	8.3	8.3	8.2	8.3
Ealing	6.0	6.0	5.8	4.7	0.9
Enfield	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.8	3.8
Greenwich	13.5	13.2	12.6	12.2	11.7
Hackney	12.1	n/a	11.5	10.8	10.2
Hammersmith and Fulham	17.8	13.8	4.8	5.6	5.5
Haringey	17.6	17.5	17.5	14.6	9.8
Harrow	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9	3.9
Havering	4.3	4.0	3.9	3.9	3.9
Hillingdon	6.0	5.8	4.4	4.4	5.7

Table 2: Unfit dwellings within private sector housing, as reported by local authorities

	2002	2003	2004	2005	Percentage 2006
Hounslow	11.5	11.4	11.2	3.5	3.5
Islington	11.2	8.0	7.6	6.9	5.9
Kensington and Chelsea	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.4
Kingston upon Thames	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.4
Lambeth	10.1	14.1	14.1	11.3	11.3
Lewisham	7.5	7.4	7.2	6.9	6.9
Merton	12.3	12.2	n/a	6.2	5.7
Newham	26.6	26.7	14.1	15.2	15.2
Redbridge	0.0	0.0	6.1	5.9	5.9
Richmond upon Thames	4.4	6.5	5.5	5.0	5.0
Southwark	5.7	3.6	3.5	6.6	6.4
Sutton	4.9	4.8	4.7	4.4	4.2
Tower Hamlets	6.4	4.6	3.9	3.6	3.4
Waltham Forest	8.0	8.0	8.0	6.3	5.8
Wandsworth	1.6	9.0	8.0	5.5	5.5
Westminster	5.1	5.1	5.0	4.9	4.8

n/a = Not available.
Note:
Underlying data as reported by local authorities. Some zeros may reflect non-reporting of numbers of unfit dwellings.
Source:
Communities and Local Government Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix Return (HSSA), calculated from section A.

Returns for individual authorities are not strictly comparable for a number of methodological reasons related to the timing and methods of assessment used. The latest national estimates from the English House Condition Survey for 2005 indicated 3 per cent. of housing association homes were unfit and 4 per cent. of private sector homes were unfit.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes were built in each London constituency in each year since 2003; and if she will make a statement. [161537]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 41-42W.

Housing: Immigrants

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 848-50W, on housing: immigrants, what estimate has been made of the number of foreign national headed households in social housing in each of the last 10 years. [159718]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is not collected by the Department and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Housing: Immigration

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make an estimate of the number of social dwellings owned by

(a) local councils and *(b)* registered social landlords which are allocated to non-British citizens with work permits, asylum seekers and refugees. [152670]

Yvette Cooper: Work permit holders granted leave to enter or remain in the UK are not eligible for social housing allocated by local authorities. No data are held centrally about RSL lettings which may be made to work permit holders.

Asylum seekers are not eligible for social housing allocated by local authorities under Part 6 of the Housing Act (1996), but can seek help with accommodation from the Home Office if they are destitute.

Refugees who have been granted asylum in the United Kingdom because they have a well founded fear of being persecuted in their own country are eligible for social housing. Using a combination of data sources (the Continuous Recording of Lettings form (CORE), and the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA)), we estimate that in 2005-06 less than 0.5 per cent. of new general needs lettings to new social housing tenants in England were to refugees.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many *(a)* housing associations and *(b)* local authorities offer the Social Homebuy scheme; [157459]

(2) how many individuals have completed a sale to part-own or own their social home under the Social Homebuy scheme; [157460]

(3) how many Social Homebuy sale completions have taken place in *(a)* housing association properties and *(b)* local authority properties. [157626]

Yvette Cooper: In April 2006 four social landlords began piloting Social Homebuy on a voluntary basis. The pilot scheme, which will run until March 2008, allows participating local authorities and housing associations to offer tenants living in social rented accommodation the opportunity to purchase discounted shares of their home starting with an initial share of 25 per cent.

The majority of the 88 sales to date have come from completions with the first phase of participating landlords, most of whom joined in late 2006. 85 were from housing association and three were from local authorities. Since April this year a second phase of landlords have joined the pilot scheme and are now offering Social Homebuy to their tenants. As with normal home purchases it can take several months to reach completion.

In all there are now 77 housing associations and nine local authorities who are offering tenants the chance to purchase a share in their home.

Housing: Rural Areas

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government are taking to improve the supply of rural housing. [147373]

Yvette Cooper: The Government set up the Affordable Rural Housing Commission to look into ways to improve the affordability of rural housing. Since its report in May 2006 we have taken a series of measures to help address rural problems, including changes to planning rules and a commitment to set a rural target for affordable housing over the next three years in light of the advice from regional housing boards which is done later in the year.

The Government set out measures in the Housing Green Paper which will help rural as well as urban areas. The detail of where new homes should be built is a matter for local planning authorities to determine.

In addition, the Prime Minister has asked the hon. Member for Truro and St. Austell (Matthew Taylor) to conduct a review on how land use and planning can better support rural business and deliver more affordable housing. The review should be completed around July 2008.

The Housing Corporation is also exploring whether Community Land Trusts can add to the delivery of affordable housing: with Salford University it is supporting a number of pilot Community Land Trusts in rural areas in order to establish the pros and cons of a number of different models.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government are taking to increase the supply of rural housing. [147962]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given today (PQ 147373).

Local Area Agreements

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to encourage local authorities to establish strong links between their local area agreement and local compacts. [161372]

John Healey: It is vital that non-statutory organisations such as voluntary and community sector groups and businesses are fully involved in partnership working to agree and deliver local area agreements. Indeed in most areas they are already involved in collaborative working through the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for the area. The 2006 LSP survey showed that over 80 per cent. of LSPs have voluntary sector umbrella organisations among their membership and nearly two thirds involve businesses. We want LSPs to develop this further because these sectors have a valuable contribution to make to discussions and can help to deliver in ways in which mainstream public sector providers can find difficult.

The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill, requires that the upper-tier or 'responsible' local authority must consult such other persons as appear to it to be appropriate, during the preparation of both the Sustainable Community Strategy and Local Area Agreement. While this will allow local authorities to exercise their discretion in this matter, we would expect responsible local authorities to consult with appropriate representatives of the local voluntary,

community and business sectors. We will make this obligation clear through the statutory guidance to accompany the legislation.

In addition, all local authorities now have a local compact in place which, if utilised, can help deliver real change for communities by recognising the third sector's independence, partnership working, diversity and right to campaign. Local authorities and their partners should consider how compact principles can be embedded in local area agreements.

To help ensure third sector organisations are effectively involved in the LAA process we have also worked with national third sector organisations to develop guiding principles of representation, based on their experience of what has proved successful. We will shortly be releasing these principles as a discussion paper.

Local Authorities: Equal Pay

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 10 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 666-67W, on Local Authorities: Equal Pay, what criteria were used to determine how much funding would be provided for Bournemouth to meet pay and grading reviews in order to comply with the Equal Pay Act 1974. [158420]

John Healey: On 4 April 2007, Communities and Local Government published a revised guidance note covering the policy and procedures for authorities seeking capitalisation of equal pay back-pay costs in 2007-08. This guidance is available at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/capital/cappolpro2.pdf.

Local Authorities: Grants

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the central Government's grant per capita was for each local authority in England in *(a)* 1997-98 and *(b)* 2005-06; and what the average grant per capita in (i) district councils, (ii) unitary councils, (iii) county councils, (iv) metropolitan councils and (v) London boroughs was in each of those years. [157625]

John Healey: I have placed in the Library of the House a table showing the information on central Government grant per capita for each local authority in 1998-99 and 2005-06.

It is not possible to give figures for 1997-98 as the population figures are unavailable owing to the reorganisation of local authorities.

The average central Government grant per capita by class of authority in 1998-99 and 2005-06 is tabled as follows:

Class of authority	*1998-99*	*£ per head 2005-06*
District Councils	62	79
Unitary Councils	633	1,042
County Councils	476	772
Metropolitan Councils	723	1,238
London Boroughs (including City of London)	841	1,307

Source:
Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns.

Central Government grant is defined here as the sum of formula grant (revenue support grant, police grant and redistributed non-domestic rates) and specific grants inside aggregate external finance (AEF), i.e. revenue grants paid for a council's core services.

Figures exclude grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), capital grants, funding for the local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

Local Government Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) of 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1682-83W, on Local Government Finance, which years the funding covers for each of the participatory budget pilot areas indicated. [157446]

John Healey: Pursuant to the reply given on 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1682-83W, on the amount of funding allocated by the participatory budgeting pilot projects, the following table shows the breakdown by financial year.

		Financial year
Bradford	Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	2004-08
	Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	
	Safer and Stronger Communities Fund	2006-08
Newcastle	Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	2006-08
Sunderland	New Deal for Communities in East End and Hendon	2005-08
	East Area Committee Local Authority Funding	2005-06
	Re-profiling New Deal for Communities funds	2006-11
Salford	Local Authority Transport capital programme, "other minor works" funding devolved to Claremont and Weaste Community Committee	2007-08
Manton	Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder	2007-08
Lewisham	Neighbourhood Renewal Fund	2007-08
	Local Authority core funds (spending priorities for these funds to be decided in September).	

Local Government Finance: Greater London

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the percentage change in central Government funding provided to each local authority in London was in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [160818]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Regent's Park and Kensington, North (Ms Buck) on 18 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 1323W.

Local Government Finance: Oxfordshire

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make a statement on the formula by which area-based grant will be allocated to Oxfordshire from April 2008. [161407]

John Healey: The overall allocation for Area Based Grant for an individual authority will not be allocated on the basis of formulae. Each Department allocating support to local authorities through Area Based Grant will be responsible for determining the distribution of their funding contribution to individual authorities. Total Area Based Grant allocations at local authority level will be the sum of the allocations made by each Department contributing funding.

Local Government Finance: Schools

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the impact on public expenditure of treating the dedicated schools grant as part of a local authority's overall budget for the purposes of calculating the threshold over which Bellwin funding may be claimed; and if she will make a statement. [159672]

John Healey: The Government consider it appropriate to include dedicated schools grant within the threshold calculation since costs incurred by local authorities on schools are eligible for Bellwin funding provided other criteria are met.

Local Government: Public Expenditure

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on local government from the public purse in the last year for which figures are available. [159977]

John Healey: Local authorities in England received an estimated £66.3 billion in central government funding during 2006-07.

This estimate is based on Communities and Local Government provisional revenue outturn data. The final 2006-07 outturn figure will be available later this year.

Central government grant is defined here as the sum of formula grant (revenue support grant, police grant and redistributed non-domestic rates) and specific grants inside aggregate external finance (AEF), i.e. revenue grants paid for council's core services.

Figures exclude grants outside AEF (i.e. where funding is not for authorities' core services, but is passed to a third party, for example, rent allowances and rebates), capital grants, funding for the local authorities' housing management responsibilities and those grant programmes (such as European funding) where authorities are simply one of the recipients of funding paid towards an area.

Local Government: Standards

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities, classified by Government office region, have Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets which include adoption targets; what the target for adoption is in each case; and how much money each local authority will receive if it achieves all of its PSA targets. [142138]

John Healey *[pursuant to the reply 13 June 2007, Official Report, c. 1073W]:* There are 64 reward targets in Local Public Service Agreements and Local Area Agreements which measure performance on adoption and/or stability of placements for Looked After Children. Reward would be payable to local authorities and their partners for achievement of these particular targets. Details on each target have been made available in the Library of the House.

Local Planning Authorities: Renewable Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which local planning authorities have included a Merton planning rule requiring onsite renewable energy in new developments in their draft local development frameworks; [159373]

(2) how many local authorities *(a)* have adopted a Merton rule requiring onsite renewables in all major new developments and *(b)* have included a Merton rule requiring onsite renewables in all major new developments as part of their draft local development frameworks. [159375]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Chesterfield (Paul Holmes) on 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 73-74W.

Local Strategic Partnerships

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what role hon. Members play in relation to local strategic partnerships. [161229]

John Healey: The current non-statutory Local Strategic Partnership guidance issued in 2001 does not prescribe a role for hon. Members, instead leaving the decision about how MPs are represented on individual partnerships to the discretion of local authorities, their partners and MPs themselves. Accordingly, the roles MPs take on Local Strategic Partnerships are varied and can range from non-representation through to chairing the partnership.

Government do not monitor individual Local Strategic Partnerships on these roles, but have collected data through a survey of LSPs. The 2006 survey indicated that 10 per cent. of LSPs included MPs or MEPs among their core membership and 27 per cent. among their wider membership.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to reply to the letters of 20 July and 21 September from the hon. Member for the Forest of Dean on the Planning White Paper and its impact on wildlife. [161264]

Mr. Iain Wright: I replied to the hon. Member on 24 October.

Microgeneration

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) when she expects to lay before Parliament in accordance with section 10 (3) of the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006 a report of any review she has conducted in accordance with section 10 (1) of the same Act; [159334]

(2) when she plans to exercise her powers under section 59 (2)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 so as to provide that development orders made by virtue of that section facilitate development in England consisting of the installation, within the curtilage of a dwelling place, of equipment apparatus or appliances for microgeneration in accordance with section 10 (3) of the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006; [159335]

(3) whether she has formed a view in accordance with section 10(2) of the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006 as to what provision (or further provision) development orders issued under section 59(2)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 should make to facilitate development in England consisting of the installation, within the curtilage of a dwellinghouse, of equipment, apparatus or appliances for microgeneration. [159388]

Yvette Cooper: We will be issuing a summary of responses to the consultation paper on proposed changes to permitted development rights for householder microgeneration in the near future. We are currently considering the many detailed points raised and what changes, if any, are needed to the original proposals. We will then, as required by section 10 of the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006, report to Parliament on the detailed changes for householder microgeneration we propose to make. The necessary changes to secondary legislation will be made as soon as possible after that.

Parish Councils: Audit

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many times the Audit Commission has charged a parish council for inspecting and auditing complaints about accounts made by members of the public under sections 15 and 16 of the Audit Commission Act 1998 in each year since 1998; and what total revenue has been raised from parish councils for such services. [157658]

John Healey: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to the hon. Member directly.

Letter from Steve Bundred, dated 22 October 2007:

Further to my letter dated 18 October in answer to your Parliamentary Question above, I am pleased to provide you with the information promised. We are unable to provide figures for 1998-2001. These would, in any event, relate to the previous reporting and audit regime which was quite different to, and significantly more expensive than, the current arrangements that we introduced from 2001-2002. The information would not, therefore, be properly comparable.

Audit year	*Completed parish council audits*	*Total audit fees (£)*	*Scale audit fees (£)*	*Additional fees (£)*	*Percentage*
2001-2002	9,324	1,295,017	1,256,586	38,431	3.1
2002-2003	9,312	1,392,138	1,331,864	60,274	4.5
2003-2004	9,293	1,477,026	1,382,128	94,898	6.9
2004-2005	9,267	1,615,681	1,567,065	48,616	3.1
2005-2006	9,154	1,745,320	1,708,297	37,023	2.2
2006-2007[1]	4,137	612,314	604,095	8,219	1.4
Total	50,487	8,137,496	7,850,035	287,461	3.7

[1] To date

The additional fees for local councils include charges, where these are made by the auditor, for the following activities which are not separately recorded:

chasing up non-responding and/or non co-operating councils;

correspondence required following non-compliant or incomplete annual return submissions and follow up audit work;

additional work arising from unusual or unexpected items in the accounts, or material variations in the accounts;

matters arising during the audit requiring expert technical or legal support;

questions from the public and matters brought to the attention of the auditor outside the inspection and audit period;

enquiries about the accounts from clerks, members and other interested parties;

dealing with formal objections to the accounts from electors;

co-operating with the police in fraud and corruption cases; and

exercising or considering the exercise of other special auditors' powers as required.

The pattern of additional fees reflects the increasing awareness about governance and accountability standards

brought about by the new reporting and audit arrangements for local councils since 2001. The growth in the early years confirms the need for improvements we had identified in introducing the new arrangements. The continuing reduction since 2003-2004 appears to confirm positive responses to findings reported by auditors and the subsequent improvements achieved by local councils.

I trust that this information is helpful.

A copy of this letter will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

Planning Permission: Flood Control

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will give the Environment Agency a veto on planning applications on floodplains. [152876]

Yvette Cooper: As part of the Government's 'Making Space for Water strategy' for flood and coastal erosion risk management, we have strengthened the role of the Environment Agency, to ensure effective management of flood risk to new development:

i) In October 2006 we made the Environment Agency a statutory consultee on all planning applications in flood risk areas, and applications on large sites outside them, which might add to flood risk elsewhere.

ii) On 1 January this year we introduced a planning Direction on flooding, so that where a local planning authority intends to approve a major application against which the Environment Agency has a sustained objection, we consider whether to call it in for decision by the Secretary of State.

Taken with the clearer and stronger policy in Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25), we think this will ensure that flood risk is taken account of at all stages in the planning process whilst retaining the decision making role of the local authority.

Planning Portal

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has she made of the reasons for the lack of commercial viability of the Planning Portal. [157682]

Mr. Iain Wright: The future of the Planning Portal is currently under review. An assessment of its commercial viability by the study team concluded that the best option would be a joint venture with local government, but allowing for the Portal to continue to develop commercial opportunities. We expect to announce the outcome of the review shortly.

Planning: Renewable Energy

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many developments have been approved in Greater London incorporating *(a)* the Mayor's requirement for onsite renewable energy as a condition of planning permission and *(b)* individual boroughs' Merton Rules. [157356]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Climate Change Planning Policy Statement will encourage all local planning authorities to require onsite renewables in all major new developments. [159332]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 860-61W (question 155448).

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether the Merton rule will be incorporated into the Climate Change Planning Policy Statement; [161326]

(2) if she will include provisions for borough-wide planning requirements for onsite renewable energy in the Climate Change Planning Policy Statement. [161355]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 860-61W.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will include representatives of the sustainable and energy efficiency industry trade associations on her Department's Climate Change Planning Policy Statement sounding board. [161356]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given earlier today (PQ 159384).

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will include trade associations representing the UK onsite renewable energy industry in her Department's zero carbon homes taskforce. [161357]

Yvette Cooper: The renewables industry is represented on the 2016 Taskforce by the chair of the Renewable Advisory Board's Subgroup on Microgeneration.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether she took account of the financial value of the Merton rule to the UK's microgeneration industry in drawing up guidance on climate change in the Climate Change Planning Policy Statement. [161358]

Yvette Cooper: The consultation draft of the Planning Policy Statement (PPS): Planning and Climate Change was supported by a partial regulatory impact assessment (PRIA). The potential additional benefits of the PPS identified in the PRIA included expanded markets and demand for renewable and low-carbon technologies. While not quantifying the estimated monetary value associated with this, the PRIA states that by helping to stimulate markets for renewable, low-carbon and decentralised energy, the PPS would benefit the many small businesses active in this sector.

As I confirmed in the answer given to the hon. Member on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 860-61W, the final PPS will support local strategies that

include both site (and area) specific targets and Merton rules. The final PPS will be supported by an impact assessment.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will take steps to ensure a public consultation takes place on her Department's proposals on the Merton rule in the Climate Change Planning Policy Statement; [161359]

(2) what representations her Department has received on the effect of the Merton rule on new house building. [161324]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 24 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 379-80W. The public consultation on the draft Planning Policy Statement (PPS): Planning and Climate Change took place between 13 December 2006 and 8 March 2007.

Planning: Supermarkets

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations she has received from supermarkets in relation to planning reform in the last 12 months; and if she will place in the Library copies of such representations. [143745]

Yvette Cooper: The Secretary of State (or her officials) has received representations from the following supermarkets in relation to planning reforms in the last 12 months:

Asda*

The Co-operative Movement

Lidl

Marks and Spencer

Musgrave GB

Salisbury's*

Tesco*

Waitrose*

Copies are available the House of Commons Library, except for where supermarkets have asked that these remain confidential (indicated by*).

Poverty: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the local government financial assistance schemes available through Leeds City Council aimed at tackling urban poverty in the area. [159859]

John Healey: The information is as follows:

Scheme	*Allocation 2007-08 (£ million)*	*Purpose of funding*
Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF)	14.938	To target resources to improve services in the most disadvantaged areas to narrow the gap between them and the rest of the country. NRF is prioritised to activities that contribute to the achievement of the Public Service Agreement (PSA) targets within the 4 LLAA Themes: Children and Young People Healthier Communities and Older People Safer and Stronger Communities Economic Development and Enterprise
Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI)	4.770	To release the economic potential of the most deprived local areas through enterprise, thereby boosting local incomes and employment opportunities and building sustainable communities. By 2010, the programme aims: to create over 500 new businesses within areas of greatest disadvantage in Leeds, with two thirds of these started by local residents to attract 75 new businesses into these areas and provide assistance to help a further 650 existing businesses to develop in the long term: to stimulate a culture of enterprise, attract investment and create over 1,100 jobs.
Safer and Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF): Neighbourhood Element	1.7430	The Neighbourhood Element provides funding to improve outcomes for people living in the most disadvantaged neighbourhoods—those that fall within the 3 per cent. most deprived nationally. The funding is targeted to achieve the SSCF outcome: 'to improve the quality of life for people living in disadvantaged neighbourhoods and to ensure that service providers are more responsive to neighbourhood needs and improve their delivery'. Key elements of the programme include:- Dedicated environmental management capacity; Dedicated community safety capacity linked to Neighbourhood Policing; Empty property team; Support for young people and vulnerable families;

Scheme	Allocation 2007-08 (£ million)	Purpose of funding
		Capital resources for problem sites and public realm improvement works; Neighbourhood Management staff to lead and co-ordinate activity; Community engagement workers .
Safer and Stronger Communities Fund (SSCF): Cleaner, Safer, Greener	1.130	Focussed upon the 3 per cent. most deprived neighbourhood, this funding will support a range of improvement works to deliver: visible on-street environmental improvements such as repairs to footpaths and highways, enhancing binyards, improving boundary treatments, and enhancing greenspaces; security measures such as the target hardening of properties vulnerable to burglary, dawn to dusk lighting targeted at areas with high numbers of older residents, gating schemes to provide security and prevent anti-social activities, and the boarding up empty properties; Activity programmes are based upon a neighbourhood assessment and Neighbourhood Improvement Plans based on meaningful consultation.
Access to Employment; Single Pot Funding	1.11	This funding provides targeted support to help BME residents, refugees, migrant workers, claimants aged over 50, lone parents and incapacity benefit recipients into work. Support will be provided through: job brokerage programmes that better link individuals with recruiting employers; work to address barriers to the labour market faced by individuals and subsequent support required to assist them; work with employers to provide employment opportunities for disadvantaged residents in growth sectors that are experiencing recruitment difficulties, including financial and professional services, construction and healthcare; innovative and pilot activity to develop new methods of working and good practice

Details can be found on the following websites:

www.leeds.gov.uk

www.neighbourhoods.gov.uk

www.leedsinitiative.org

Public Expenditure: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will *(a)* break down by subheading and *(b)* indicate the purpose of the public expenditure under the heading of valuation services listed on page 37 of her Department's resource accounts for 2006-07 (HC 836). [157466]

John Healey: The purpose of the spending on this line in the resource account is to enable the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) to carry out valuations of properties to form the basis on which council tax and national non domestic rates bills can be calculated.

The sum is used by the VOA to cover salary, accommodation and other costs, the latter including all the information systems, processes, technology and training necessary to support the maintenance of some 25 million entries in the local taxation lists.

Regeneration

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which localities are zoned as growth areas; and on what date each was designated as such. [157499]

Yvette Cooper: Regional Planning Guidance for London and the rest of the South East (RPG9) in 2000 identified the potential for significant growth in the Thames Gateway, Milton Keynes-South Midlands, Ashford and London-Stansted-Cambridge areas. Following studies into the potential for growth in these areas, the Government confirmed on 18 July 2002 that it would work with regional and local partners in each of these four growth areas to establish where, at what scale, and how quickly growth could be achieved. The Sustainable Communities Plan, 'Sustainable Communities: Building for the Future', published on 5 February 2003, announced confirmation of Thames Gateway and the three other growth areas together with funding support and said that working with regional planning bodies and local authorities Government would take forward growth plans for those areas through revisions of regional planning guidance, in the regional planning process.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what areas are designated as new growth point partnership areas. [157500]

Yvette Cooper: On 24 October 2006, 29 local authorities and partnerships were named as New Growth Points commencing a long-term partnership for growth with Government.

New growth points	
East Midlands	
Three cities and three counties	Derby city council, Derbyshire CC, Leicester city council, Leicestershire CC, Nottingham city council, Nottinghamshire CC
Grantham	South Kesteven DC and Lincolnshire CC
Lincoln	Lincolnshire CC, City of Lincoln council, North Kesteven DC and West Lindsey DC
Newark on Trent	Newark and Sherwood DC
East of England	
Haven Gateway	Babergh DC, Colchester BC, Essex CC, Ipswich BC, Suffolk Coastal DC, Suffolk CC, Tendring DC
Norwich	Norwich City Council, Norfolk CC, Broadland DC, South Norfolk council, the Broads Authority
Thetford	Breckland council, Thetford Town council, Norfolk CC
South East	
Basingstoke	Basingstoke and Deane BC
Didcot	South Oxfordshire DC
Maidstone	Maidstone BC
Oxford	Oxford city council
Partnership for Urban South Hampshire	East Hampshire DC, Eastleigh BC, Fareham BC, Gosport BC, Hampshire CC, Havant BC, New Forest DC, Portsmouth city council, Southampton city council, Test Valley BC, Winchester DC
Reading	Reading BC
Reigate and Banstead	Reigate and Banstead BC
South West	
Exeter and East Devon	Exeter city council, East Devon DC and Devon CC
Plymouth	Plymouth city council
Poole	The borough of Poole
Swindon	Swindon BC
Taunton	Taunton Deane BC and Somerset CC
Torbay	Torbay council
Truro	Carrick DC and Cornwall CC
West of England	Bristol city council, Bath and North East Somerset council, North Somerset council and South Gloucestershire council
West Midlands	
Birmingham and Solihull	Birmingham city council and Solihull MBC
Coventry	Coventry city council
Telford	The borough of Telford and Wrekin
East Staffordshire	East Staffordshire BC
Hereford	Herefordshire council
Shrewsbury and Atcham	Shrewsbury and Atcham BC and Shropshire CC
Worcester	Worcestershire CC, Worcester city council, Wychavon DC and Malvern Hills DC

Regional Authorities: Renewable Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which regional authorities have included a Merton planning rule requiring onsite renewable energy in new developments in their regional spatial strategies. [159367]

Yvette Cooper: All updates of regional spatial strategies provide a supportive framework for using local renewable and low carbon energy in new development. The policies included by regional planning bodies in their draft revisions have varied in their approach including on the expected content of local level plans, technological preference and size of development to which the policy would be applied.

Regional Government

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. member for Beckenham of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 751W, on regional government, how many full-time equivalent staff in her Department are assisting each of the regional ministers. [157555]

John Healey: At present, there is 1.0 full-time equivalent staff within the Department that is supporting the development of the Regional Minister role. In addition, those providing direct support within each Government office to their respective Regional Minister are as follows:

	Full-time equivalent
Right hon. Tessa Jowell MP (London)	1.0
Jonathan Shaw MP (South East)	2.0
Ben Bradshaw MP (South West)	2.5
Barbara Follett MP (East)	2.0
Gillian Merron MP (East Midlands)	3.5
Liam Byrne MP (West Midlands)	1.0
Right hon. Beverley Hughes MP (North West)	2.5
Right hon. Nick Brown MP (North East)	1.0
Caroline Flint (Yorkshire and the Humber)	1.0

All posts are a redeployment of existing GO resources, not new posts.

Renewable Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the meetings and discussions with representatives of the private sector in respect of the decision to amend the Merton rule. [155447]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 860-61W, confirming that councils will be able to continue with

and adopt new Merton rules and that our new Planning Policy Statement on climate change will support local strategies that include both site (and area) specific targets and Merton-style rules.

In consulting on and developing our measures to drive higher environmental performance in new development, we have had many discussions with a wide range of interested stakeholders. These have involved representatives from the private sector, including those working in the renewables and construction industries, as well as from local government and non-governmental organisations.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) if she will estimate the total onsite renewable energy capacity which will be installed by 2010 as a result of the Merton planning rule; [159337]

(2) what her Department's estimate is of *(a)* the number of completed Merton rule developments in England and *(b)* the average change in the level of carbon dioxide emissions attributable to such developments delivered as a result of the Merton rule; [159378]

(3) what her Department's estimate is of the number of individual developments which gained planning approval under local planning authority Merton rules in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007; [159382]

(4) if she will estimate the total annual change in the level of carbon dioxide emissions by 2010 if every English local planning authority adopts a Merton rule requiring onsite renewable energy in all major new developments. [159383]

Yvette Cooper: Estimates of the type sought will vary substantially according to the assumptions made on matters such as the range of developments to which local policies are applied, the expected number of developments to be completed, their energy demands, the extent to which the provision of installed equipment complies with the original planning permission and whether the technologies installed in practice provide the predicted savings. However the Government have set out a timetable for all new homes to be zero carbon by 2016. This will require significant increases in the use of renewables and we have assessed that overall implementation of this policy will reduce carbon dioxide emissions by at least 15 million tonnes of carbon dioxide a year by 2050.

Using their own assumptions, the London of borough of Merton have estimated the demand for renewable energy arising from Merton style policies and, more recently, a study for the Greater London Authority by the London South Bank University has considered the energy performance of applications referred to the Mayor. More generally, an overview of the estimated impact of our energy measures is provided in our White Paper, "Meeting the Energy Challenge" and supporting publications.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's definition is of the Merton planning rule. [159349]

Yvette Cooper: The London borough of Merton adopted their Unitary Development Plan in 2003 with a policy that expects new non residential developments above a threshold of 1,000 sq m to incorporate renewable energy production equipment to provide at least 10 per cent. of predicted energy requirements. In doing so they were the first local authority in the UK to include a policy of this kind in a UDP. The council has been heavily involved in promoting the approach leading it to be coined the Merton Rule.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the visits she has made to developments incorporating onsite renewable energy installations in the last 12 months. [159376]

Yvette Cooper: In the last 12 months, members of the CLG ministerial team have visited several developments that demonstrate both high levels of energy efficiency and good use of local renewable and low-carbon energy. These include the BowZed development in East London; the Hockney Green development in Andover; Hockerton Housing project in Nottinghamshire; Environment Trust site at Norfolk Park; Adelaide Wharf in Shoreditch; and the Building Research Establishment Innovation Centre in Watford.

Second Homes: Devon

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes in East Devon were classed as *(a)* second homes and *(b)* holiday lets in each year since 1997. [157982]

Mr. Iain Wright: Estimates for second homes in East Devon since 2002 are tabulated as follows. These are as reported by East Devon local authority through the Council Tax Base (CTB1) form.

East Devon

	Number
1 November 2002	2,041
3 November 2003	2,250
1 November 2004	2,478
10 October 2005	2,399
9 October 2006	2,282

Source:
Council Tax Base (CTB1) returns.

Figures on holiday lets are not centrally available.

Second Homes: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many homes in each London constituency were classified as second homes in each year since 2003; and if she will make a statement. [161535]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on second homes by constituency is not held centrally.

Estimates are tabulated as follows by local authority and are as reported by London local authorities through the Council Tax Base (CTB1) form.

	3 November 2003	7 November 2004	10 October 2005	9 October 2006
Barking and Dagenham	49	32	32	25
Barnet	2,907	2,849	2,815	2,862
Bexley	55	47	38	50
Brent	2,478	1,461	1,068	932
Bromley	280	663	713	661
Camden	3,572	3,671	3,483	3,283
City of London	1,463	1,487	1,521	1,505
Croydon	169	195	677	699
Ealing	761	1,450	1,321	1,239
Enfield	1,296	1,305	1,224	1,480
Greenwich	1,005	797	744	814
Hackney	45	33	63	94
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,297	1,986	1,933	1,923
Haringey	7	149	146	145
Harrow	211	927	866	609
Havering	283	264	417	365
Hillingdon	146	809	989	1,091
Hounslow	1,302	1,258	1,042	1,012
Islington	453	1,252	1,273	1,099
Kensington and Chelsea	8,209	7,489	7,118	6,719
Kingston upon Thames	173	513	400	355
Lambeth	680	934	917	939
Lewisham	467	526	488	491
Merton	457	1,076	1,102	1,090
Newham	1,286	1,389	1,073	1,202
Redbridge	239	964	964	1,021
Richmond upon Thames	868	1,321	1,192	1,133
Southwark	1,545	808	715	1,180
Sutton	20	77	124	107
Tower Hamlets	3,170	3,809	3,899	4,016
Waltham Forest	1,411	1,518	1,079	933
Wandsworth	[1]—	[1]—	288	1,672
Westminster	11,932	11,124	10,096	9,235
Total London	48,236	52,183	49,820	49,981

[1] Not applicable
Source:
Council Tax Base (CTB1) returns

Solar Power

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the marginal cost to a housing developer of installing a domestic solar hot water system under the planning requirements of the Merton planning rule. [159345]

Yvette Cooper: The Merton rule does not set requirements for particular technologies. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister for Energy on 16 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1039W, for details on the costs of installing a domestic solar hot water system.

Taxation: Business

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated revenue is from business rates in England in 2007-08. [157642]

John Healey: Details of the amount of non-domestic rates local authorities in England estimate they will collect in 2007-08 can be found on the Communities and Local Government website at:

www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/ndr078.htm

Thames Gateway Bridge

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects the Thames Gateway Bridge public inquiry to re-open. [161027]

Mr. Iain Wright: It is for the Planning Inspectorate, and not the Secretary of State, to fix the dates of the inquiry. Transport for London has recently indicated that, by early 2009, it should be in a position to provide the information requested by the Secretary of State in her letter of 25 July. We therefore consider that the earliest anticipated date for the re-opening of the inquiry is in spring 2009.

Unitary Councils: Public Participation

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to publish the summary of stakeholder responses to the public consultation on proposals for unitary status in Exeter. [160476]

John Healey: Shortly.

Urban Areas: Regeneration

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list in date order Government *(a)* reports and *(b)* white papers produced relating to urban renewal and social inclusion since June 2005. [159854]

John Healey: Government reports produced from June 2005 relating to urban renewal and social inclusion. (In date order for NM Pathfinder Programme reports, New Deal for Communities reports and 'Other' reports).

National Evaluation: Neighbourhood management pathfinder programme funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government

Title	Date
Alternative Approaches to Neighbourhood Management: Wolverhampton's neighbourhood management pilot programme - Case Study	November 2005
Alternative Approaches to Neighbourhood Management: 6 Full Case Study Reports	March 2006
2005-06 Annual Review: Key findings	March 2006
2005-06 Annual Review: Full Research Report	March 2006
Research Report 25: Neighbourhood Management Theme Report: Rolling Out Neighbourhood Management	March 2006
Research Report 27: Alternative Approaches to Neighbourhood Management: Summary and Analysis	March 2006
Research Report 23: Neighbourhood Management-At The Turning Point? Programme Review 2005-2006 - Full Report and Summary	March 2006

National Evaluation: Neighbourhood management pathfinder programme funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government

Title	*Date*
Neighbourhood Management and Extended Services In And Around Schools	July 2006
Research Report 28: An overview of the 2003 and 2006 Round 1 Pathfinder Household Surveys	August 2006
Research Report 29: Neighbourhood Management Theme Report: Housing	August 2006
Research Report 30: Neighbourhood Management Theme Report: Services For Young People	August 2006
Research Report 31: Joining Up For Safer Neighbourhoods: A Theme Report From The Neighbourhood Management Pathfinder Programme National Evaluation	August 2006
Research Report 24: National evaluation of the Street Wardens Programme	August 2006
A Rough Guide to Neighbourhood Management: Making the Business Case for Neighbourhood Management	November 2006
Research Report 34: Neighbourhood Management Theme Report: Economic Development	May 2007
Research Report 35: Making Social Capital Count - An Action Learning Set Report	June 2007
Research Report 37: Neighbourhood Management: empowering communities, shaping places - Animal Review 2006-2007	August 2007
Using Data to Improve Services - A Toolkit for Neighbourhood Management Initiatives	August 2007
Research Report 36: The contribution of Neighbourhood Management to cleaner and safer neighbourhoods	August 2007
Research Report 38: An overview of the 2004 and 2007 Round 2 Pathfinder Household Surveys:	September 2007
New Deal for Communities, National Evaluation: Phases 1 and 2	
Data Analysis Paper 32: Education and Skills	June 2005
Estimating the impact of NDC using Labour Force data	July 2005
NDC Key Findings from the Survey of Beneficiaries	August 2005
National Evaluation of New Deal for Communities - Value for Money Strand	September 2005
The 39 NDC Areas Brief Pen Portraits	November 2005
Fear of Crime in NDC Areas: How do Perceptions Relate to Reality?	November 2005
Research Report 53: Teenage Pregnancy and Sexual Health	November 2005
Research Report 54: Improving Access to Health Care - Introducing New Services for NDC Residents	November 2005
Research Report 55: Relocation or Extension of Health Care Services	November 2005
Research Report 57: Healthy Lifestyle Interventions	November 2005
Health of NDC Residents: Who Has the Most to Gain?	November 2005
Housing and the Physical Environment: Will Residents Stay and Reap the Benefits?	November 2005
Research Report 62: Employment Strategies in Newham and Hull NDCs	November 2005
Research Report 65: Enterprise: Business Start-up in Two NDC Areas	November 2005
Community Involvement and Social Capital	November 2005
The Moving Escalator? Patterns of Residential Mobility in NDC Areas	January 2007

National Evaluation: Neighbourhood management pathfinder programme funded by the Department for Communities and Local Government

Title	*Date*
Research Report 33: An Overview of Change Data 2006	January 2007
The 2006 Partnership Questionnaire': A Briefing Note	June 2007
Other Reports	
A Framework for City-Regions - Working Paper 1: Mapping City-regions	February 2006
A Framework for City- Regions - Working Paper 2: City-Regions: Policy and Practice	February 2006
A Framework for City-Regions - Working Paper 3: City- Regions; Why, where are we now and how far would we need to travel?	February 2006
A Framework for City-Regions - Working Paper 4: The role of City-regions in regional economic development policy	February 2006
An exploratory assessment of the economic case for regeneration investment from a national perspective	March 2006
Meeting the Regional Economic Challenge: the importance of cities to regional growth, (joint Treasury, ODPM and DTI paper)	March 2006
The State of the English Cities Report vol. 1 and 2	March 2006
The State of the English Cities (Urban Research Summary 21)	March 2006
The State of the English Cities: Thematic Reports: The Changing Urban Scene: Demographics and the Big Picture	November 2006
The State of the English Cities: Thematic Reports: Social Cohesion	November 2006
The State of the English Cities: Thematic Reports: The Competitive Economic Performance of English Cities	November 2006
The State of the English Cities: Thematic Reports: The State of American Cities	November 2006
The State of the English Cities: Thematic Reports: Liveability in English Cities	November 2006
The State of the English Cities: Thematic Reports: A Comparison of Public Attitudes in Urban and Non-Urban Areas across Different Regions	November 2006
Policy Papers: UK presidency EU Ministerial Informal on Sustainable Communities	December 2006
Report from the Local Community Sector Taskforce	January 2007
Local Environment Quality: A New View on Measurement	May 2007
CLG Third Sector Strategy for Communities and Local Government: discussion document	June 2007
Sub-national economic development and regeneration review (Treasury, Department for Communities and Local Government, BERRI)	July 2007

Government White Papers produced from June 2005 relating to urban renewal and social inclusion.

Title	*Date*
Strong and Prosperous Communities –The Local Government White Paper	October 2006

Valuation Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library copies of the presentation, speech and handouts produced by Valuation Office Agency representatives at the Institute of Revenues Rating and

Valuation Annual Conference on October 2007 on *(a)* the 2010 revaluation, *(b)* using automated valuation models for non-domestic assessment and *(c)* valuing the impossible. [157495]

John Healey: Copies of these presentations and handouts have been placed in the Library of the House.

Valuation Office: Nimbus Partners

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* services and *(b)* goods the Valuation Office Agency has purchased from the company Nimbus Partners in the last five years; at what cost; and for what purpose. [157558]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

The VOA has procured from Nimbus Partners, a software application known as Control Enterprise Suite. The software is used in the development and mapping of VOA processes.

The initial purchase cost in 2003 was £186,100 excluding VAT.

In addition the agency pay annual support and maintenance charges to Nimbus geared to the number of users since the original procurement these charges have been:

	£ (excluding VAT)
03-04 (part)	45,000
04-05	52,312
05-06	61,875
06-07	61,875

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Aerials

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make it a requirement for mobile telecommunications operators to disclose mast locations and power levels to a Sitefinder website, or equivalent, as a condition of their operators' licences. [158119]

Mr. Timms: The Government have no plans to make such disclosure a condition of the operators' licences. We and the Office of Communications (Ofcom) remain committed to the principles underlying Sitefinder, which remains a voluntary agreement between Ofcom and the cellular operators.

Cellular operators are in discussion with Ofcom and the Government on the future provision of data to Sitefinder so that members of the public will continue to be able to access information about the location and power levels of base stations.

Bank Services: Security

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what steps his Department is taking to strengthen the security of online banking and payment systems; [157060]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the finance industry on the security of online banking and payment systems. [157059]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 11 October 2007]:* The Government encourage discussion between all parties involved in tackling crimes committed using computers, and is determined to tackle the problem of card/cheque and remote banking fraud at all levels, whether it affects individual consumers or businesses. BERR is working closely with other Government departments and law enforcement agencies to ensure that the UK is a world class safe and secure online environment for everyone.

Nearly 15 million people in the UK now use the internet to access their bank accounts, and millions more regularly shop online.

HM Government, SOCA (the Serious Organised Crime agency) and leading businesses have worked together to create Get Safe Online, www. getsafeonline. org. website to help individuals and small businesses protect themselves against internet threats such as viruses, spam, spyware and online fraud.

Bankruptcy

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many individual voluntary arrangements were *(a)* taken out and *(b)* breached in (i) the UK and (ii) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last five years. [161653]

Mr. McFadden: It is currently not possible to provide official figures for individual voluntary arrangements (IVAs) by constituency. Further, IVAs typically last for five years and therefore statistics for later years will be increasingly skewed in favour of ongoing cases and failures in the earlier stages of the IVA. The number of IVAs registered in England and Wales and their status as at August 2007 can be seen in table 1.

Table 1: England and Wales

IVAs registered		*IVA status as at August 2007 (percentage)*		
		Ongoing	*Completed*	*Failed*
2002	6,295	25	50	25
2003	7,583	42	33	25
2004	10,752	56	20	24
2005	20,293	75	9	16
2006	44,332	92	3	5

Note:
Rounding could produce overall percentages greater or less than 100 per cent.

The Insolvency Service has policy responsibility relating to individual insolvency in England and Wales. For Scotland and Northern Ireland this is the responsibility of the Accountant in Bankruptcy, Scotland and the Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment, NI, respectively. The number of voluntary insolvencies, known as Protected Trust Deeds in Scotland and IVAs in Northern Ireland, can be seen in table 2. The status of these procedures is not available from the Insolvency Service (England and Wales).

Table 2

	Scottish protected trust deeds	*Northern Ireland IVAs*
2002	5,174	207
2003	5,452	318
2004	6,024	449
2005	6,881	633
2006	8,208	774

Bermuda

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials, broken down by grade, from his Department visited (i) Bermuda and (ii) Barbados in each year between 1998 and 2006; and what the reason was for each visit. [161079]

Mr. Thomas: There is no record over this period of a visit to Bermuda by a Minister or official from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR), or its predecessor Department. No Minister from BERR has visited Barbados over this period.

Details of visits by officials to Barbados are as follows:

Year visited	*Grade*	*Reason for visit*
June 1998	Export Promoter	Trade mission
November 1998	Range 8	Accompanied trade mission
November 1999	Export Promoter	Accompanied trade mission
February 2002	Range 10	Resource management
April 2002	Range 6	Accompanied trade mission
May 2003	Range 8	Accompanied trade mission
September 2003	Range 8	Accompanied trade mission
September 2003	Range 11	Accompanied trade mission
November 2003	Range 11	Accompanied trade mission
February 2004	Range 6	Pre-mission work
February 2004	Range 6	Pre-mission work
March 2004	Range 10	Led trade mission
September 2004	Range 8	Accompanied trade mission
September 2004	Export Promoter	Accompanied trade mission
December 2004	Deputy Director	Follow up on trade mission
February 2005	Export Promoter	Accompanied trade mission
February 2005	Range 8	Accompanied trade mission
October 2005	Export Promoter	Accompanied trade mission
October 2005	Range 8	Accompanied trade mission
November 2006	Range 6	Accompanied trade mission

Conditions of Employment

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he plans to take to raise awareness among employers and employees of the extension of statutory leave entitlement. [161394]

Mr. McFadden: The Government undertook two full consultations on the proposals to increase the holiday entitlement, holding a number of regional meetings and working closely with unions and employer organisations. Specific efforts were made to engage small businesses and employers in key sectors likely to be particularly affected. The ability to receive email updates on the proposals was offered and over 8,000 people requested updates on progress. The proposals also attracted considerable media coverage on a number of occasions.

Detailed guidance for employers and workers, including an interactive calculator for holiday entitlements, has been placed on the Business Link and Direct.gov websites respectively, with supporting material on BERR's own website.

Departments: Assets

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what departmental assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; and what the expected revenue from each such sale is. [160402]

Mr. Thomas: The Core Department, together with its Agencies, has a relatively small stock of tangible fixed assets. It consists primarily of the office buildings, furniture, IT and other office equipment that is necessary for the workforce to operate effectively. Most of the Department's tangible fixed assets are held by its delivery partners, primarily the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and the Regional Development Agencies.

The Department has reviewed its asset stock to ascertain where value-for-money can be delivered through future disposal. However, a conclusion has been reached that there is currently no likelihood of future asset disposals, and this decision is reflected in the Department's CSR settlement.

Departments: Civil Proceedings

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many civil law suits have been brought against his Department in which proceedings are no longer ongoing based either wholly or partially on the grounds of the Human Rights Act 1998; how many were settled out of court, before a court judgement was delivered; and how much such settlements cost since the Act came into effect. [160733]

Mr. Thomas: We do not collect central records of all cases in which the Human Rights Act 1998 is relied on. Human rights are now integrated in the general law and are rarely the sole basis for a challenge. For this reason the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Closures

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what policy changes his Department has implemented since 27 June 2007. [159298]

Mr. Thomas: The Department has implemented a number of new and changed policies since 27 June 2007. My Department has kept Parliament fully informed of these changes. For example we have announced:

A draft code of practice for regulators. The Regulators' Compliance Code is a statutory code of practice aimed at improving the way regulators enforce regulations (laid before Parliament on 16 October 2007).

A new study into the feasibility of a Severn Barrage to exploit the tidal energy resource in the Severn Estuary. This decision reflects the conclusions of a report, commissioned by Government in July 2006, by the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) into the potential for tidal power in the UK. The feasibility study will consider the environmental, social and economic aspects of a Severn barrage. 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1151-52W.

Our response to the consultation on the draft Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Bill. This will lead to a Bill that will be introduced when parliamentary time allows which will extend sanctioning powers for regulators dealing with non-compliance with regulation.

As part of the pre-Budget report (9 October) the high-level portfolio of products from which business support will be provided in the future.

The publication of the document "Next Steps on Regulatory Reform" which sets out a range of initiatives that will help realise the benefits of better regulation for businesses, third sector organisations and the public sector front line. 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 64WS.

As part of publication of the Next Steps on Regulatory Reform launched a thorough-going Consumer Law Simplification Review in July 2007, to assess the scope for further reductions in the burdens on business, without diminishing consumer protection.

Departments: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what efficiency savings his Department was required to make as part of its Spending Review 2004 (SR04) targets; what efficiency projects have been undertaken in the Department in pursuit of those targets; on what date each was initiated; and how much each was predicted to contribute to the SR04 target. [160556]

Mr. Thomas: DTI's Spending Review 2004 efficiency savings projects were initiated in April 2005. (SR04) targets and actuals for each of these efficiency savings work streams are set out in the following table. At the end of the second year of the three year programme these efficiency savings work streams had contributed £484 million efficiency savings against the overall £408 million SR04 target.

£ million

SR04 Efficiency Work stream	*2005-06 delivery (year one)*		*2006-07 delivery (year two)*		*2006-07 target (year two)*		*SR04 overall target*	
Financial efficiency gains	*N/C*	*C*	*N/C*	*C*	*N/C*	*C*	*N/C*	*C*
Staff reductions	0.00	33.71	0.00	37.63	0.00	28.24	0.00	39.25
Internal Operations	4.25	11.85	-0.12	31.98	11.62	13.59	20.29	13.96
Value for money in programme spend	0.00	1.92	27.09	5.82	6.21	18.11	12.42	20.07
Business Support (inc. SFIE)	0.00	27.50	0.00	70.21	0.00	34.20	0.00	41.36
Science DTI and Research Councils	26.31	50.58	86.79	125.96	48.64	77.50	79.79	115.39
Nuclear Decommissioning Authority	n/a	n/a	0.00	40.00	0.00	6.68	0.00	13.72
RDAs (DTI)	2.92	3.06	9.64	12.39	6.09	10.47	9.32	14.59
Trading Funds (Companies House and Patent Office)	2.40	0.00	2.40	0.00	6.85	0.00	10.55	0.00
Other Agencies and NDPBs	4.54	2.22	8.84	7.31	6.19	5.51	7.22	10.59
Exceptional items	0.24	12.91	0.24	18.08	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total (DTI)	40.66	143.75	134.88	349.38	85.60	194.30	139.59	268.93

Source:
Department of Trade and Industry Annual Report and Accounts 2006-07 [section 3.110]

Departments: Disabled People

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which buildings occupied by his Department *(a)* are and *(b)* are not fully accessible to disabled people; and if he will make a statement. [161171]

Mr. Thomas: The Department's HQ estate is fully accessible to disabled people.

Departments: Flint Bishop

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* its agencies have made payments to Flint Bishop solicitors since 1997. [151375]

Mr. Thomas: A total of £19,944.30 has been paid to Flint Bishop & Barnett solicitors between 4 April 2000 and 1 September 2004 in respect of coal health claims.

Central records indicate that no other payments have been made.

I have asked the Chief Executives of the Executive Agencies to respond directly to the hon. Member.

Further information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on how many occasions he has visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [158914]

Mr. Hutton: My predecessor and I, as Secretary of State for Trade and Industry (until 28 June) and for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, have made the following visits on ministerial business in the last 12 months.

	Number
North East	3
North West	3
East of England	2
South West	2
South East	3
East Midlands	1
West Midlands	0
Yorkshire and the Humber	2

Departments: Performance Appraisal

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in 2006-07. [146925]

Mr. Thomas: The former Department of Trade and Industry is not able to provide the information about the numbers of staff who did not achieve an acceptable mark in their annual report in each of the last three years. In line with best practice, it is our policy not to allow the breakdown of groups to the extent where anonymity of individuals may be compromised (and we do therefore frequently summarise responses).

Where staff are given an unacceptable box marking under formal inefficiency proceedings this has to be addressed as soon as it occurs rather than waiting for the appraisal cycle to complete. Central records record cases of poor performance current at the end of the appraisal year. An unacceptable box marking is awarded where an individual consistently fails to achieve agreed work priorities and/or behaviours.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform in which financial years since 2001 his Department's outturn for its capital budget at the end of the year was less than planned at the beginning of the year; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* reason for the underspend was in each case. [160340]

Mr. Thomas: The National Audit Office measures spending performance against plans by comparing outturns against final provision following supplementary estimates—rather than against plans at the start of the year—as plans can change during the year for a number of reasons, such as machinery of government and classification changes.

The definitive figures for final provision and provisional outturn are published each year in the "Public Expenditure Outturns White Paper". Changes to plans arising in-year are published in "Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses", as are differences between provisional and final outturns.

Departments: Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what percentage of questions tabled to his Department for answer on a named day received a substantive reply on the day named in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [161334]

Mr. Thomas: A total of 621 named day questions were received this Session, of which 216 received a substantive reply on the day specified—35 per cent.

Energy: Conservation

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to encourage the use of real time electricity display devices. [161300]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department is currently consulting on the metering and billing proposals that the Government made in the Energy White Paper. This consultation, which will end on 31 October, seeks views on the proposal that display devices should be provided by a supplier when it replaces or installs an electricity meter, and, for a two-year period, when a customer requests a device from his electricity supplier.

Export Credit Guarantees

Roger Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the Answer of 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 902W, on export credits guarantees, which company made each non-standard application in respect of which country in each case; and what type of product was involved in each such application. [159720]

Malcolm Wicks: The information requested is as follows:

Company	*Country*	*Product*
BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd.	Saudi Arabia	Bespoke indemnity derived from Export Insurance Policy
BAE Systems (Operations) Ltd.	Saudi Arabia	Bespoke indemnity derived from Export Insurance Policy
Sovereign Star Ltd.	Brazil	Export Insurance Policy

If ECGD receives an approach to cover transactions whose nature and structure is such that a standard application form would not be suitable or appropriate, ECGD produces a non-standard application form to meet the needs of such business. However, many of the features of the standard application form would still apply; for example, the anti-bribery and corruption requirements would be included as a matter of course.

Foreign Workers

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many overseas workers worked in the UK in 2006; what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the effect of those workers on the UK economy; and if he will make a statement. [160710]

Mr. McFadden: According to the Labour Force Survey in 2006, 11.3 per cent. of people employed in the UK were born overseas. The Government published their submission on "The Economic and Fiscal Impact of Immigration" to the House of Lords Select Committee on Economic Affairs on 16 October, in which the Treasury estimated that migration had contributed around £6 billion to output growth in 2006.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many households in *(a)* Southend, *(b)* each borough in Essex, *(c)* each borough in Kent, *(d)* the Metropolitan Police area of London and *(e)* England and Wales are in fuel poverty; what steps he has (i) taken and (ii) plans to take to reduce these numbers; and if he will make a statement. [161085]

Malcolm Wicks: Official fuel poverty statistics are currently only available at Government Office Region level. Latest available figures for England are sourced from the 2004 English House Condition Survey, while Welsh figures are sourced from the Living in Wales survey. Official figures for fuel poverty at available geographies are given as follows.

Area	*Number of households in fuel poverty*	*Percentage of households in fuel poverty*
England	1,236,000	6
Wales	134,000	11
London Government Office Region	119,000	4

A fuel poverty indicator giving estimates of the level of fuel poverty in small areas of England was launched on 25 May 2007. These statistics correspond to 2003 at lower super output area, a geography that splits England into 32,482 areas. The methodology used in constructing the indicator is broadly equivalent to the official methodology, however some differences remain.

Area: Essex

Borough	*Number of households in fuel poverty*	*Percentage of households in fuel poverty*
Basildon	3,951	6
Braintree	3,207	6
Brentwood	1,550	5
Castle Point	2,006	6
Chelmsford	3,574	6
Colchester	3,796	6
Epping Forest	2,722	5
Harlow	1,736	5
Maldon	1,435	6
Rochford	1,775	6
Southend on Sea	4,383	6
Tendring	3,864	6
Thurrock	3,385	6
Uttlesford	1,634	6

Area: Kent

Borough	*Number of households in fuel poverty*	*Percentage of households in fuel poverty*
Ashfield	3,151	7
Canterbury	3,343	6
Dartford	2,004	6
Dover	2,886	7
Maidstone	3,272	6
Medway	6,203	6
Sevenoaks	2,475	6
Shepway	2,559	6
Swale	3,136	6
Thanet	3,657	7
Tonbridge and Mailing	2,434	6
Tunbridge Wells	2,480	6

We have taken a number of steps to tackle fuel poverty. DEFRA leads on the Warm Front programme in England. The Warm Front scheme, and its equivalents in the Devolved Administrations, has resulted in improvements to the energy efficiency of the housing of those on a range of qualifying benefits. Winter fuel payments significantly help with fuel costs in coldest months.

Other measures that have had a positive impact include CLG's Decent Homes Standard; local authority programmes; and the systematic approach adopted in a number of warm zone areas. The Energy Efficiency Commitment for 2005-08 requires electricity and gas suppliers to meet targets for the promotion of improvements in domestic energy efficiency to a priority group of low income consumers.

We have taken further steps to increase efforts to tackle fuel poverty in the Energy White Paper and we are currently taking forward the implementation of these actions, which include improved Government communications during winter, further encouragement of suppliers to direct assistance at their vulnerable customers, improvements to Government schemes and better use of information held by Government. Next steps will be set out in the Fifth Annual Fuel Poverty Progress Report.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what research has been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by his Department on the effect of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 in reducing fuel poverty; and if he will make a statement. [161086]

Malcolm Wicks: We actively monitor progress towards the targets set out in the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000. Progress towards and policies to achieve these goals are set out in the UK Fuel Poverty Strategy Annual Progress Reports.

Fuels: Prices

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what discussions he has had with national suppliers of *(a)* unleaded and *(b)* diesel on regional variations in the price of petrol; and if he will make a statement; [159733]

(2) what accountability mechanisms his Department uses to ensure the fair and competitive pricing of petrol; what complaint procedures are in place to allow customers to challenge regional variations in pricing; and if he will make a statement; [159734]

(3) what estimate he has made of the average difference in the price of *(a)* unleaded and *(b)* diesel between urban and rural areas; and if he will make a statement; [159735]

(4) how many investigations of price-fixing in the petrol industry there were in each of the last five years; and how many of those investigations resulted in action being taken against the companies concerned; [159736]

(5) pursuant to the Answer of 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2030W, on fuel prices, what assessment he has made of the price variations for *(a)* unleaded and *(b)* diesel within the South West; and if he will make a statement. [159707]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 22 October 2007]:* The Department has discussions with companies and representative associations in the downstream oil sector on a wide range of issues. BERR does not collect information on regional petrol prices. A range of factors determine retail petrol and diesel prices. Price differentials between rural and urban areas reflect different costs in distributing and supplying petrol and diesel. Price setting is a commercial matter for individual companies. The Office of Fair Trading continues to monitor the UK petrol market to ensure that anti-competitive behaviour does not occur. Customers should refer any complaints concerning pricing and anti-competitive behaviour to the Office of Fair Trading. In the past five years there has been one investigation, carried out by the Office of Fair Trading in 2006, and this did not result in any action against the companies concerned.

Heathrow Airport: Standards

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will establish a mechanism to provide incentives for BAA to spend money to improve conditions for passengers at Heathrow airport. [161234]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

Such mechanisms already exist. As part of its economic regulation of airport charges at Heathrow (under Part IV of the Airports Act 1986), the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) put in place in 2003 a regime of service quality targets for BAA with financial penalties if these targets were not met on a month-by-month basis. Similar targets and penalties are also in place at Gatwick airport. As part of the current review of price controls and other economic regulation of Heathrow and Gatwick, the Competition Commission has recently recommended strengthening and extending this scheme.

In addition, the CAA through its price controls encourages timely investment in facilities, many of which are designed to improve conditions for passengers. This has provided sufficient incentive for BAA to bring forward investment in Terminal 5, which is scheduled to open in March 2008 as planned, and which should significantly enhance passenger experience across the airport. Looking forward, the Competition Commission has recently recommended that future investment at Heathrow be further incentivised through greater financial penalties for later delivery of projects.

The CAA will be consulting on its regulatory proposals, in light of the Commission's recommendations, in November, with a view to setting new controls on Heathrow and Gatwick in early 2008 for the five years 2008-13.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many former miners' compensation claims have been under consideration for longer than *(a)* four, *(b)* five, *(c)* six, *(d)* seven and *(e)* eight years since first application; and if he will make a statement. [158794]

Malcolm Wicks: The number of coal health claims that are outstanding as at 14 October 2007 for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and Vibration White Finger (VWF) broken down as requested are shown in the table as follows:

Claim outstanding age bands	*COPD*	*VWF*
4 years to < 5 years	28,017	44
5 years to < 6 years	4,753	1,988
6 years to < 7 years	4,372	1,112
7 years to < 8 years	3,220	5,152
8 years or greater	7,575	3,363
Total claims outstanding for more than 4 years	47,973	11,659

The aforementioned table shows the total number of claims outstanding for more than four years not yet settled by payment, denial, withdrawal or strike out. The main reasons why these claims are outstanding are that the Department's claims handlers, Capita, are awaiting responses to offers, more information is needed to reach assessment stage, or they are subject to delays due to co-defendants involvement.

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what average level of damages has been recovered by the 10 firms of solicitors with the highest number of cases registered under *(a)* the British Coal Vibration White Finger scheme and *(b)* the British Coal Respiratory Disease scheme in relation to those schemes. [160281]

Malcolm Wicks: The average amount of damages recovered by the 10 firms of claimants' representatives with the highest volume of claims for Vibration White Finger (VWF) and Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) as at 14 October 2007 is shown on the following table:

Claimants' representatives	*Claims registered*	*Average damages paid on claims settled by payment (£)*
Vibration White Finger		
Thompsons Solicitors	21,074	15,111
Browell Smith and Co	16,463	10,025
Beresfords Solicitors	11,621	9,794
Union of Democratic Mineworkers	11,527	10,302
Raleys Solicitors	11,280	11,068
Hugh James	10,637	10,659
Graysons Solicitors	8,700	14,425
Moss Solicitors	7,389	9,951
Watson Burton LLP	5,934	15,896
Towells Solicitors	5,357	11,984
Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease		
Beresfords Solicitors	80,841	2,458
Thompsons Solicitors	57,968	9,289
Hugh James	56,801	7,550
Raleys Solicitors	48,864	6,102
Browell Smith and Co	32,973	6,724
Avalon Solicitors	32,422	2,113
Mark Gilbert Morse	25,724	7,437
Union Of Democratic Mineworkers	16,596	3,179
Barber and Co	14,091	2,705
Watson Burton LLP	14,073	4,353

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many addresses of miners with compensation claims have been released to the Law Society for communications about solicitors double charging; and how many are due to be released in 2007. [161225]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has released 3,644 miners' addresses to the Legal Complaints Services (LCS) to inform miners of their rights regarding solicitors fees with respect to coal health claims as part of the pilot in the Rother Valley constituency.

The LCS are currently evaluating the outcome of the pilot. Once this evaluation is complete, a decision will be made on next steps.

Mr. Skinner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many claims for *(a)* miners' hearing loss, *(b)* vibration white finger and *(c)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disease were paid in Bolsover constituency in each of the last seven years. [161440]

Malcolm Wicks: The number of claims settled by payment for miners hearing loss (NIHL), vibration white finger (VWF) and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) claims in the Bolsover constituency as at 21 October 2007 are shown in the following table.

	NIHL	*VWF*	*COPD*
2000	322	59	174
2001	806	155	362
2002	406	372	673
2003	203	614	1,534
2004	144	621	1,484
2005	169	806	2,536
2006	87	869	1,789
2007	22	1,055	785

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many former miners' health compensation claims are unresolved in *(a)* Hemsworth constituency and *(b)* West Yorkshire. [161675]

Malcolm Wicks: The number of former miners' coal health claims that are outstanding for Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and Vibration White Finger (VWF) for Hemsworth constituency and West Yorkshire as at 30 September 2007 is shown in the following table:

	Area	*Total claims*	*Total outstanding claims*
COPD	Hemsworth	11,201	1,361
	West Yorkshire	35,428	5,197
VWF	Hemsworth	4,854	304
	West Yorkshire	12,090	739

Total outstanding claims are those that have not yet been settled by payment, denial, withdrawal or strike out.

West Yorkshire is defined using the following constituencies:

Batley And Spen Borough
Bradford North Borough
Bradford South Borough
Bradford West Borough
Calder Valley
Colne Valley
Dewsbury
Elmet
Halifax Borough
Hemsworth
Huddersfield Borough
Keighley
Leeds Central Borough
Leeds East Borough
Leeds North East Borough
Leeds North West Borough
Leeds West Borough
Morley and Rothwell Borough
Normanton
Pontefract and Castleford
Pudsey Borough
Shipley and Wakefield.

Industrial Disputes: Arbitration

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what research his Department has undertaken on mediation in employment disputes in the last 12 years. [151293]

Mr. McFadden: This Department commissions periodic surveys of claimants and employer respondents which include information related to Acas conciliation' and the role of parties' representatives. The last survey was carried out in 2003, and the findings published in the Employee Relations Survey Report No. 33 "Findings from the Survey of Employment Tribunal Applications 2003". The next survey is expected to take place in 2008 and will include questions on the parties' attitudes to mediation.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 10 September on climate change and UK energy. [161261]

Malcolm Wicks: I responded to the hon. Member's letter on 18 September. A copy of my letter has been faxed to the hon. Member's parliamentary office.

Microgeneration: Climate Change

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his assessment is of the potential contribution of microgeneration in the UK to tackling climate change; and if he will make a statement. [159102]

Malcolm Wicks: As recognised by the Microgeneration Strategy, microgeneration has a significant role to play in meeting our energy policy goal of sustainable and secure energy for all. It will help meet our goal of cutting CO_2 emissions by 60 per cent. by 2050. We have recently commissioned research which will quantify the future potential of microgeneration which is due to be completed by spring 2008.

Migrant Workers: Conditions of Employment

Jon Cruddas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what measures he is taking to encourage migrant workers to report instances of forced labour and exploitation. [160117]

Mr. McFadden: Steps have been taken to raise migrant workers' awareness of their workplace rights and how to report instances of abuse. All accession country (A8 and A2) workers required to register under the Home Office's Worker Registration Scheme now receive a one page 'Know Your Rights' leaflet alongside their registration documents. The leaflet—available in six languages—includes telephone numbers and website addresses for the workplace enforcement bodies and other advice bodies. 'Know Before You Go' leaflets are also available to Lithuanian, Polish and Portuguese nationals before they leave for the UK.

It is now easier for migrant workers, whose main language is not English, to report instances of abuse to the workplace enforcement bodies. Translation services are available for those who wish to use the various enforcement helplines, and complaints can be submitted by e-mail. Reports about abuses of the National Minimum Wage regulations, for example, can be made to the helpline on 0845 6000 678 or via e mail using the complaint form at www.hmrc.gov.uk/nmw/complaint.htm. Where migrant workers work through an employment agency, and they have concerns about mistreatment, they can contact the Employment Agency Standards helpline on 0845 955 5105, or send an email to eas@berr.gsi. gov.uk.

This year's enhanced National Minimum Wage publicity work includes a campaign targeted at migrant workers, including publicity for the NMW helpline. Other enforcement bodies such as the Health and Safety Executive and the Gangmasters Licensing Authority also have publicity and awareness-raising work in train aimed at migrant workers.

The Department's Vulnerable Worker Enforcement Forum, set up to look at employment rights abuses, and identify ways of improving the enforcement framework is considering, as part of its work, whether more can be done to encourage vulnerable workers, including vulnerable migrant workers, to report problems.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the budget is for the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority for *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10 and *(d)* 2010-11. [159958]

Malcolm Wicks: The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA) has a programme budget settlement of some £2.47 billion for 2007-08. The Authority believes that this settlement will give it and its contractors the certainty they need without impacting on the planned programme of nuclear clean up work. The settlement strikes a proper balance between what is desirable and what is affordable, and it ensures that safety remains the paramount concern.

Over the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) 2007 period, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform will oversee the NDA to ensure that the UK's civil nuclear liabilities continue to be managed safely, securely and cost effectively. The NDA will be informed of their settlement shortly.

Nuclear Power Stations

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has received from *(a)* industry and *(b)* other parties regarding the timescale for making a decision on new nuclear power plants. [158707]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* The Nuclear Consultation process ended on 10 October 2007.

We have received over 2,500 responses by website and post from stakeholders and the general public, which we will publish except where the respondents have asked for their responses to remain confidential.

We will make a decision, after we have carefully considered and analysed all the responses and information we have received during the consultation period.

Nuclear Power Stations: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what discussions he has had with British Energy on the number of nuclear power stations it has shut for maintenance and repair; and if he will make a statement. [161688]

Malcolm Wicks: On 22 October, British Energy updated the market on the status of its Hartlepool and Heysham 1 nuclear power stations. Operational issues are a matter for BE, which is a publicly listed company, and so it would be inappropriate for Government to comment any further.

Our electricity system is among the most resilient in the world. All power plants suffer unplanned outages from time to time, which is precisely why there is a safety margin of extra generation for electricity. Even if the nuclear plants taken out of action this week remain out of service through the winter, National Grid still expects there to be 19 per cent. more available electricity generation capacity than will be needed at times of highest demand.

Nuclear Power: Public Participation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations his Department has made to the Market Research Standards Board's investigation into the Government's nuclear power consultation; and if he will make a statement. [160792]

Malcolm Wicks: Opinion Leader were appointed by the Department in April this year to conduct deliberative research with the public, as one part of the Government's consultation on the future of nuclear power. Greenpeace have made a complaint to the Market Research Standards Council, the professional body which operates a code of conduct for those working in the sector, about Opinion Leader's conduct of this research. I understand that the Council has launched an investigation. My Department has not so far been asked by the Market Research Standards Council to make representations, and has not done so.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the value is of the contract with Opinion Leader Research for the consultation on nuclear energy. [159930]

Malcolm Wicks: Opinion Leader were appointed by the Department in April this year to conduct deliberative research with the public, as one part of the Government's consultation on the future of nuclear power.

The total value of their contract is £772,626. Of this amount £655,452 was paid to Opinion Leader for activities associated with the design, delivery and reporting for the public deliberative events, and the remaining £117,174 has been paid to cover the costs of Dialogue by Design, a specialist sub-contractor who have managed the online consultation website on behalf of the Department. The final costs of the web-based activity have yet to be determined as they are dependent on the volume of materials received.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the tendering process was for selecting Opinion Leader Research for the consultation on nuclear energy. [160078]

Malcolm Wicks: Opinion Leader Research were appointed by the Department in April this year to conduct deliberative research with the public, as one part of the Government's consultation on the future of nuclear power. They were appointed following a competitive tendering process, which involved three agencies with whom COI hold framework agreements, and the process was overseen and managed by COI.

Oil: Cardigan Bay

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which companies have applied for licences in Cardigan Bay in the 24th licensing round. [160284]

Malcolm Wicks: In order to ensure commercial interests are not prejudiced and so as not to undermine the competitive process we do not publish the names of applicants for particular blocks. The names of winning applicants are made public at the time of any award.

Overseas Trade: Milk

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much milk was *(a)* exported to and *(b)* imported from the Netherlands in each of the last 10 years. [161134]

Mr. Thomas: Overseas trade statistics data give the following figures for UK trade in milk and cream with the Netherlands:

Thousand tonnes

	UK exports of milk and cream to the Netherlands	*UK imports of milk and cream from the Netherlands*
1997	64.6	5.4
1998	31.1	6.8
1999	28.6	8.0
2000	22.9	8.0
2001	19.2	7.0
2002	41.3	7.5
2003	23.0	13.1
2004	13.3	15.2
2005	6.1	19.6
2006	11.5	29.3

Parental Leave

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what information his Department holds on the relationship between the take-up of parental leave and the income band of those eligible for such leave. [160834]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 25 October 2007]:* The Department does not collect any administrative data on parental leave take-up. Some estimates of take-up can be made from survey data, however no survey data are available which provides a complete answer to the tabled question.

The Maternity and Paternity Rights: Survey of Parents was conducted in 2005, with a sample of mothers and their partners who had had a baby approximately 17 months earlier in December 2003. Analysis of this data shows that for both mothers and fathers in work after the birth of their child, there is no statistically significant relationship between income band and take-up of parental leave. It should be borne in mind that this data is representative of only a subset of all workers eligible for this form of leave. Pages 36/37 and 85/86 of the survey report, available at http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file27446.pdf. present these findings.

Post Office: Reorganisation

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the average hourly rate paid to his Department's advisers on the restructuring of the post office network was; and where those advisers were located. [152975]

Mr. McFadden: It would not be appropriate to give the hourly rates for the individual advisers used on the post office network restructuring as this is commercially confidential information. The combined average hourly rate for the advisers was £318 per hour. All the advisers used were based in London.

Post Offices

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* urban and *(b)* rural post offices (i) opened and (ii) closed in each year since 1990. [161765]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Post Offices: Closures

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the number of the 2,500 post offices proposed for closure which will be closed following the consultation process. [161309]

Mr. McFadden: Following the Government's final decisions, it is now for Post Office Ltd. to develop local area plans for proposals for closures and other changes in service provision on a strategic basis within the framework set by Government.

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what agreements sub-postmasters whose post offices have been nominated for closure were asked to sign with Post Office Ltd. before the commencement of the consultation process on the proposed closures. [161310]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Post Office and *(b)* Postwatch on the programme of post office branch closures; and if he will make a statement. [161545]

Mr. McFadden: I visited Postwatch on 23 July to discuss the post office closure programme and the council's role. In addition, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I have met the Managing Director of Post Office Ltd. to discuss a range of matters relating to the post office network including the closure programme.

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for what reasons no assessment has been made of the likely effect of the proposed post office closures on greenhouse gas emissions. [161658]

Mr. McFadden: As stated in the Government's response to the public consultation on the post office network, closures will principally affect a combination of branches in areas of over-provision and those that are least used. Post Office Ltd. will be tasked with taking a strategic overview of service provision to ensure that in areas of over-provision, people should be able to find an alternative branch nearby and the vast majority will still be within walking distance of their nearest office. With the least used, the number of people affected will, by the nature of the offices, be low. The introduction of new access criteria will minimise the impact by ensuring that the network remains readily accessible across the UK—with far greater coverage than any other retailer, financial service provider or public service provider.

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will instruct Post Office Ltd. to make an assessment of the likely effect of proposed post office closures on greenhouse gas emissions. [161661]

Mr. McFadden: No. The area plans published by Post Office Ltd. to date indicate that over 95 per cent. of the population in each area will see no change to the post office branch they currently use or will be within one mile of an alternative branch.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff in his Department are working on post office closures consultations; and whether these staff are based in areas where consultation is taking place. [161674]

Mr. Hutton: Department staff are not working on the consultations. Post Office Ltd. is responsible for developing and implementing its network change programme. The company is working to a rolling programme of around 50 area plans drawing on input from Postwatch, local authorities and sub-postmasters. Views on the detailed proposals are then sought during a six-week period of local consultation. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October and will continue to be rolled out at regular intervals until next July.

Post Offices: Finance

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the total turnover of post offices was over the last five years, broken down by region. [160129]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Postal Services: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what measures he is taking to help bring about a settlement to the dispute between the Royal Mail and trade unions. [158666]

Mr. McFadden: The Government are pleased that issues have now been resolved and agreement has been reached between the CWU and Royal Mail and they urge all postal workers to support their union's recommendation in the forthcoming ballot.

Postal Services: Strikes

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what plans he has for further meetings with representatives of *(a)* Royal Mail Ltd. and *(b)* the Communications Workers Union to discuss resolution of the postal strike. [157265]

Mr. McFadden: The Government are pleased that issues have now been resolved and agreement has been reached between the CWU and Royal Mail and they urge all postal workers to support their union's recommendation in the forthcoming ballot.

Public Houses: Rural Areas

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will seek to hold discussions with brewery companies on support for rural public houses in England and Wales. [155406]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The Department has no plans to hold discussions with brewery companies on support for rural public houses in England and Wales.

Regional Electricity Companies: Licensing

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the reasons are for licence conditions requiring companies providing new electricity supplies to treat individuals in the same manner as businesses when determining the costs of providing a new supply; and what estimate he has made of the cost of this to individuals in rural communities. [160669]

Malcolm Wicks: Under section 16(1) of the Electricity Act 1989, electricity distributors are required, upon request, to make a connection to supply electricity to a premises and to provide electric lines or electrical plant or both as necessary. Under section 19(1) of the Electricity Act 1989, the distributor may require any expenses reasonably incurred in providing such a connection (including lines and/or plant) to be defrayed by the person requiring the connection to such extent as is reasonable in all the circumstances.

This legislation is supported by standard distribution licence conditions, including condition 4B (which requires distributors to publish and comply with a methodology for connection charges) and condition 4C (in particular paragraph 1 which requires that

"the licensee shall not discriminate between any persons or class or classes of persons ... in carrying out works for the purpose of connection").

We have made no estimate of the cost of these provisions to individuals in rural Communities.

Renewable Energy

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he expects the UK to meet the target of 20 per cent. of its energy use being met from renewable sources by 2020; and if he will estimate the proportion of the UK's energy use in that year which will be met by each type of renewable energy technology. [161354]

Malcolm Wicks: The EU 2020 20 per cent. renewable energy target is to be shared across all EU member states and the UK's contribution to the target is not yet clear. At this stage, we cannot estimate the proportion of the UK's energy use that will be met by each type of renewable energy technology.

Renewable Energy: Standards

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what modelling his Department has conducted on how the UK can meet its share of the EU target of 20 per cent. of energy from renewables by 2020; and if he will publish the results. [161152]

Malcolm Wicks: The UK share of the overall 20 per cent. target will not be clear until draft EU legislation is published, likely to be in January 2008. Modelling work is currently being done under various scenarios and conclusions will be published on completion.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what work his Department has conducted on the *(a)* cost

and *(b)* policy implications of meeting the likely UK portion of the legally binding EU target of 20 per cent. of energy from renewables by 2020 to which the UK is committed; and if he will publish this work. [161153]

Malcolm Wicks: The exact level of the UK share of the overall 20 per cent. target will not be clear until draft EU legislation is published, likely to be in January 2008. We are undertaking work on costs and policy consequences under various scenarios, the conclusions of which will be published on completion.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether his Department plans to maintain the carbon-price based EU Emissions Trading Scheme alongside the EU target to supply 20 per cent. of energy from renewables by 2020. [161555]

Malcolm Wicks: At this year's Spring Energy Council, the EU Heads of Government agreed a package of energy measures including a target to achieve 20 per cent. of the EU's energy from renewable sources by 2020. The conclusions from the Spring Council also highlighted the importance of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme (ETS) in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. As stated in the UK's Energy White Paper, the Government are committed to both and are keen to ensure that the EU target for renewable energy is implemented in a way that is consistent with an effective EU ETS.

Royal Mail: Fines

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many penalty charges were imposed by Royal Mail in the last year for which figures are available. [152127]

Mr. McFadden: I understand from Postcomm that Royal Mail does not record the number of times that underpaid postage surcharge forms are issued to customers. However, the company does record the total value of the forms issued and the total revenue that is received from customers who choose to pay the surcharge.

In 2006-07 the company issued forms with a total value of £21,897,333.23. In the same period the revenue raised amounted to £7, 335, 544.39.

Solar Power: Finance

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what grants his Department makes available to *(a)* public landlords and *(b)* owner-occupiers to install solar power in housing; and how many properties in Leeds have received assistance. [159856]

Malcolm Wicks: The low carbon buildings programme phase 1 was launched in April 2006 with a budget of £36 million to be used to demonstrate energy efficiency and microgeneration technologies in a range of buildings to include households and small and medium enterprises (SME's).

SME's could apply for a maximum grant of £1 million or up to 50 per cent. of the total installation cost. However, the final rounds in this category closed to new applicants in September 2007. To date, one public landlord has applied successfully to the programme in the Yorkshire and Humberside region for a solar thermal hot water system project. There have been no applications from public landlords for solar photovoltaic (PV) systems.

Owner-occupiers can apply for up to £2,500 per property towards the installation of microgeneration technologies including solar photovoltaics (PV) and solar thermal hot water systems. To date, the number of successful grants applications for householders in the Yorkshire and Humberside region is as follows:

Technology	*Number of successful applicants*
Solar photovoltaics (PV)	55
Solar thermal hot water	151
Total	206

Trade Unions: Ballots

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Hertfordshire North East of 4 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1112W, on trade unions: ballots, if he will place in the Library copies of scrutineers' reports on union ballots on political fund retention produced between June 2001 and July 2006. [158673]

Mr. McFadden: The certification officer asks trade unions to provide him with a copy of the reports produced by the scrutineers of political fund review ballots. He has agreed to make copies of those he has received in the period between June 2001 and July 2006 available to me. I will then place them in the Library.

Trade: Barbados

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he has *(a)* taken and *(b)* plans to take to increase trade between the United Kingdom and Barbados; how much his Department has spent on trade promotion between the United Kingdom and Barbados; and if he will make a statement. [161082]

Mr. Thomas: UK Trade and Investment, through its teams based in Barbados and in the UK, provides a range of support to help UK companies do business in Barbados. Support is offered on an individual basis under a number of programmes, and country specific statistics are not kept.

UK Trade and Investment: Defence Export Services Organisation

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what name will be given to the new organisation within UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) which will have responsibility for defence exports; and how many employees of the Defence Export Services Organisation will be transferred to UKTI. [160067]

Mr. Thomas: As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced on 25 July, the Cabinet Office is leading work on the development of an implementation plan to be ready by the end of this year. An update will be provided to the House when this work is completed.

Union Modernisation Fund

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what total funding has been claimed so far in respect of each project awarded funding under Round One of the Union Modernisation Fund. [159956]

Mr. McFadden: To 30 September 2007 a total of £1,494,306.14 has been claimed by projects under Round One of the Union Modernisation Fund.

Utilities: Billing

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what information his Department holds on which utility companies *(a)* inform customers that they will instruct and *(b)* instruct bailiffs in respect of unpaid accounts without a court order; and if he will make a statement. [161022]

Malcolm Wicks: The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) is responsible for regulating gas and electricity supply, including the operation of debt and disconnection arrangements. The regulator for telecoms is the Office of Communications (Ofcom). The Department does not collect information about the recovery of debt by gas and electricity suppliers or telecoms service providers, or the processes involved in such recovery.

Utilities: Meters

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 451W, on utilities: meters, how many households pay for electricity and gas by *(a)* direct debit, *(b)* prepayment meters, *(c)* online methods, *(d)* quarterly payments, *(e)* fuel direct and *(f)* any other method, broken down by income decile. [161616]

Malcolm Wicks: In the UK, there are around 26¼ million electricity and 21 million gas domestic customers. The number of customers split by payment method and income decile is estimated as follows:

Electricity in thousand customers

	Decile group									
	Lowest 10 per cent.	*Second*	*Third*	*Fourth*	*Fifth*	*Sixth*	*Seventh*	*Eighth*	*Ninth*	*Highest 10 per cent.*
Pre-payment	870	608	481	429	357	341	267	259	123	41
Standard credit	1,149	1,126	1,128	985	1,021	961	989	888	1,009	1,081
Direct debit	606	890	1,015	1,210	1,246	1,322	1,368	1,477	1,493	1,502

Gas in thousand customers

	Decile group									
	Lowest 10 per cent.	*Second*	*Third*	*Fourth*	*Fifth*	*Sixth*	*Seventh*	*Eighth*	*Ninth*	*Highest 10 per cent.*
Pre-payment	609	406	289	254	199	220	151	110	33	25
Standard credit	958	928	929	857	880	809	816	811	905	872
Direct debit	537	770	886	994	1,024	1,075	1,137	1,184	1,166	1,208

The aforementioned data have been estimated from the latest BERR Domestic Fuel Inquiry which shows customers numbers by payment type and the 2005-06 Expenditure and Food Survey which supplies information on payment methods and household income.

Ofgem's domestic retail market report shows that in March 2007 there were 2½ million customer accounts signed up to online tariffs (this figure includes both gas and electricity accounts). The majority of consumers paying online for their gas and electricity will use the direct debit payment method and would therefore be included in that category in the aforementioned tables.

There are around 50,000 gas and electricity fuel direct accounts.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Animal Welfare

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with his European counterparts on improving animal welfare standards for the sale of domestic animals. [160440]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA officials hold regular discussions on welfare issues with stakeholders and colleagues in the European Union (EU) but the sale of domestic animals has not been raised specifically.

Common standards for many areas of animal welfare already exist within the EU. These include standards of welfare on-farm, during transport and at slaughter.

The Commission's proposals for the next five years are set out in the EU Animal Welfare Action Plan, published on 23 January 2006. We look forward to continued engagement with the Commission and fellow member states on this.

Mrs. James: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with his European counterparts on improving animal welfare standards in member states of the European Community. [160441]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA ministers and officials hold regular discussions, on this and a range of other issues, with stakeholders and colleagues in the European Union (EU).

Common standards for many areas of animal welfare already exist within the EU. These include standards of welfare on-farm, during transport and at slaughter.

The Commission's proposals for the next five years are set out in the EU Animal Welfare Action Plan, published on 23 January 2006. We look forward to continued engagement with the Commission and fellow member states on this.

Biofuels: Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact on greenhouse gas emissions of the growing of biofuels. [160474]

Mr. Woolas: Lifecycle analysis carried out on the greenhouse gas emissions for a wide range of biofuels show that sustainably produced biofuels can result in an overall net reduction in carbon emissions. Full details of their evaluations are available on the European Union website.

The actual carbon savings can vary widely, depending on how much fossil energy is used in cultivation, harvesting, processing and transportation. For example, the Government-sponsored Low Carbon Vehicle Partnership has calculated that the carbon savings for UK wheat-based ethanol compared to petrol can vary from 7 per cent. to 77 per cent.

For this reason, the forthcoming renewable transport fuel obligation (RTFO) will require companies to measure and report on how much carbon their fuel has saved over the entire lifecycle from grain to tank. From 2010, when experience with carbon measurement and reporting has been established, the Government have announced their intention that the RTFO will reward fuels according to their carbon savings.

British Waterways Board: Finance

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions he has had with his counterpart in the Welsh Assembly Government on the funding of British Waterways; and if he will make a statement; [160722]

(2) what discussions he has had with his counterpart in the Scottish Executive on the funding of British Waterways; and if he will make a statement; [160723]

(3) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on *(a)* the funding of British Waterways and *(b)* the use of British Waterways for leisure and tourism purposes; and if he will make a statement; [160798]

(4) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on *(a)* the funding of British Waterways and *(b)* the role of British Waterways in regeneration; and if he will make a statement; [160799]

(5) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on *(a)* the funding of British Waterways and *(b)* the use of British Waterways to transport freight; and if he will make a statement. [160800]

Jonathan Shaw: Responsibility for inland waterways has not been devolved to Wales and DEFRA remains the single government sponsor of British Waterways in England and Wales. However officials do discuss British Waterways matters with their Welsh counterparts from time to time.

The Scottish Executive is responsible for the funding of British Waterways' canals in Scotland and I am in contact with my counterpart in the Scottish Executive as required by the governing legislation. My officials also hold regular liaison meetings with the Executive to discuss financial and operational matters affecting British Waterways.

DEFRA holds regular meetings with ministerial colleagues and officials on a wide range of issues, including the funding of British Waterways and its operational activities. I have recently written to the Secretaries of State for Communities and Local Government, for Health, for Transport and for Culture, Media and Sport, with the aim of setting up an inter-departmental working group to formalise and strengthen DEFRA's contact with other Government Departments. This group will work to ensure that the potential benefits of waterways are understood.

Commons Councils

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to publish his proposals for the formation of commons councils under the Commons Act 2006. [160692]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government will issue a public consultation document on proposals for commons councils later this year, with a view to bringing the relevant provisions of the Commons Act 2006 in to force in the first half of 2008. DEFRA has already begun informal discussions with stakeholders to help inform this process.

Conservation: Devolved Matters

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many meetings have taken place with the Scottish Executive since May on the further devolution of nature conservation duties beyond 12 nautical miles. [160621]

Jonathan Shaw: Since May, the Government and the Scottish Executive have met four times to discuss the devolution of nature conservation responsibilities, among other issues. This includes my visit to Scotland in early October.

Contamination: Grants

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Government's policy is on making contaminated land grants; and what assistance is available for householders who do not receive grants to remove radon gas from their property. [161386]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA provides discretionary funding support to individual local authorities (LAs) in connection with their responsibilities for dealing with contaminated land under the Environmental Protection Act 1990.

Support is also provided by central Government through the environmental, protective and cultural services (EPCS) component of revenue support grant. This funding is not ring-fenced, which enables individual LAs to determine their own expenditure.

Responsibility for radon gas no longer rests with DEFRA but with the Health Protection Agency and the Department of Health.

Domestic Wastes: Waste Disposal

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what records the Waste Resources Action Programme holds of the local authorities in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Northern Ireland which have moved to alternate weekly collections of household rubbish. [158213]

Joan Ruddock: WRAP does not advise local authorities in Wales or Scotland, and therefore does not hold any records on those local authorities that have moved to alternate weekly collection of household waste.

WRAP does provide advice to local authorities in Northern Ireland through its Recycling and Organics Technical Advisory Team. The team's understanding is that 24 out of 26 local councils operate an alternate weekly collection system.

Advice on recycling collections in Scotland and Wales is a matter for the devolved Governments.

Energy: Conservation

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if the Government will take steps to support local campaigns to save electricity as part of its strategy on tackling climate change; and if he will make a statement. [159812]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 25 October 2007]:* The Government are working at a regional and community level through the Climate Change Communications Initiative which has provided £8.5 million to 83 local projects to help raise awareness of climate change, encourage positive attitudes and provide advice on action to help tackle it.

My department also funds the Energy Saving Trust (EST).The ESTs Community Partnerships programme works with and provides advice and support to local bodies, to help them deliver energy efficiency to their communities.

The Community Energy Efficiency Fund (CEEF), which is funded by my department, aims to ensure 300,000 of the most vulnerable pensioner and other vulnerable households are assisted using an area based approach. In September 2007, 50 projects totalling £6.3 million were offered funding by CEEF, including a range of new and established projects, each bringing together key players at the local level to improve the effectiveness of Warm Front and Energy Efficiency Commitment.

Environment Protection: Territorial Waters

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the Government's policy is on the environmental protection of UK territorial waters. [160758]

Jonathan Shaw: Under the EC habitats and birds directives, the UK has established a network of sites to protect habitats and species. There are currently 182 marine protected areas in UK inshore waters (up to 12 nautical miles), which include 81 Special Protections Areas with marine habitats for birds, 98 Special Areas of Conservation with marine habitats or species, and three statutory marine nature reserves. We are carrying out surveys of marine areas to identify further sites that will meet the obligations under the directives.

In addition, we have an international commitment under OSPAR to establish an ecologically coherent network of well managed Marine Protected Areas by 2010. By then, we will have largely completed our network of European sites.

We will further add to this network by including Marine Conservation Zones (MCZs) which were proposed in the Marine Bill White Paper, published in March 2007. Through the Marine Bill, the Government will deliver a new framework for the sustainable development of the UK marine area. The MCZ mechanism will provide a flexible tool which allows for the designation of a full range of sites, from areas of limited protection to areas of very high protection. It will be possible to designate MCZs anywhere within marine waters over which the UK Government exercises jurisdiction, namely UK offshore waters and the territorial sea adjacent to England.

It is the Government's intention to publish a draft Marine Bill in the next session, probably in early 2008.

Export Credit Guarantees

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice his Department has provided to the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) concerning the impact of the businesses supported by ECGD on *(a)* biodiversity and *(b)* climate change. [161238]

Mr. Woolas: My Department examines the environmental impacts, including both biodiversity and climate change impacts of potential projects on a case-by-case basis, and provides advice to ECGD as appropriate.

Fisheries

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what information on fish stocks his Department provided to the Food Standards Agency to enable the Agency to carry out the sustainability assessment of its two a week advice on fish consumption; and if he will place this information in the Library; [161628]

(2) if he will make a statement on the 2004 findings of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution that implementation of the Food Standards Agency two a week fish consumption advice would result in a 40 per cent. overall increase in fish consumption and a 200 per cent. increase in oily fish consumption; [161629]

(3) when his Department was approached by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) for advice on the sustainability of fish stocks with regard to the FSA's two a week fish consumption advice; [161630]

(4) what assessment his Department has made of the impact on fish stocks of the Food Standards Agency's two a week fish consumption guidance; [161631]

(5) what his Department's policy is on the implementation of the Food Standards Agency's two a week fish consumption advice. [161632]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department is in regular contact with the Food Standards Agency (FSA) and has provided, when required, the latest scientific information on the state of the key EU fish stocks, based on advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES). The FSA is currently gathering a range of material to support a sustainability assessment on its advice that consumers should eat more fish, and will seek further input from DEFRA as necessary. In the meantime, the FSA advice, which I support, remains that consumers should be encouraged to eat two portions of fish per week (including one of oily fish).

The UK household consumption of fish has increased by some 13 per cent. per head in the last 10 years, and by 17 per cent. in absolute terms over the same period. It is not however possible to assess what proportion of these increases has been as a direct consequence of the FSA advice.

Fisheries: Subsidies

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which EU countries have submitted their European Fisheries Fund *(a)* operational programme and *(b)* strategic plan to the European Commission; and if he will make a statement; [159599]

(2) which EU countries have had their European Fisheries Fund operational programme approved by the European Commission; and if he will make a statement; [159600]

(3) which EU countries are receiving European Fisheries Fund moneys; and if he will make a statement; [159601]

(4) on which dates each EU country with an operational programme approved by the European Commission will begin receiving European Fisheries Fund moneys; and if he will make a statement. [159602]

Jonathan Shaw: Information regarding which European Union (EU) member states have submitted European Fisheries Fund (EFF) Operational Programmes and Strategic Plans is not available. However, I understand that 19 out of 26 Operational Programmes and 21 out of 26 Strategic Plans have been submitted to the Commission for approval to date.

No EU countries have yet had their EFF Operational Programmes approved by the European Commission. Of those Programmes already submitted to the Commission, I understand that the Commission is aiming to have the majority approved by the end of the year.

EU countries will only begin receiving EFF moneys, following approval of their Operational Programmes. As a result, no EU countries are currently receiving EFF moneys.

It is not yet possible to determine when payments of EFF moneys will begin. Payments by the Commission of the contribution from the EFF, to EU countries, take the form of pre-financing, interim payments and payment of the balance. Following the Commission decision to approve an Operational Programme, a single pre-financing amount, representing 7 per cent. of the contribution from the EFF to that Operational Programme, will be made by the Commission. Following agreement of the EU countries management and control systems, interim payments will commence.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) pursuant to the answer of 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 777W, on fisheries: subsidies, when he expects the UK operational programme to be ready for submission to the European Commission; and if he will make a statement; [159603]

(2) when he expects UK fishermen to begin receiving European Fisheries Fund monies; and if he will make a statement. [159604]

Jonathan Shaw: We aim to consult with fishermen and other stakeholders on the Operational Programme in early 2008. Following this, we will be working to submit the UK Operational Programme to the European Commission at the earliest opportunity, which should be in any case not later than June 2008.

We cannot finalise the draft programme until agreement is reached on the split of the European Fisheries Fund (EFF) budget between the devolved Administrations. I am continuing to seek a resolution and, if necessary, will do so through the dispute resolution procedures set out in the devolution agreements.

Payments of EFF monies to European Union countries can only commence after the Commission approves the Operational Programme. Officials are working closely with the Commission during the development of the Operational Programme to ensure that the approval process can be completed as quickly as possible. We anticipate that payments to UK fishermen will commence in late 2008.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 777W, on fisheries: subsidies, for what reasons the Government has not yet submitted the operational programme to the European Commission. [159899]

Jonathan Shaw: Under the terms of the relevant European Union regulation, the draft Operational Programme must exemplify budget figures for each funding axis. Until the UK Administrations agree a

budget split, we cannot meet this requirement and, hence, cannot submit a draft Operational Programme to the European Commission.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 777W, on fisheries: subsidies, what proposals have been put forward for the division of the European Fisheries Fund monies between the devolved administrations. [159900]

Jonathan Shaw: Officials from the four UK Administrations have explored a number of methods for dividing the UK European Fisheries Fund (EFF) budget. These include the use of metrics (such as value of fishing industry output), numbers employed in the fisheries sector, number of fishing businesses and dependence on fisheries. It was concluded that none of these offered an allocation that was considered reasonable by all four Administrations.

For this reason, the Administrations agreed that a budget-split based on the split for the previous grant scheme, Financial Instrument for Fisheries Guidance (FIFG), offered the most reasonable compromise.

While provisional agreement has been reached for use of the FIFG split for the non-convergence budget, Administrations have failed to reach final agreement on the use of this method for the convergence budget. I am continuing to seek a resolution and, if necessary, will do so through the dispute resolution procedures set out in the devolution agreements.

Floods: Boscastle

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what financial assistance his Department made available to the town of Boscastle after the floods there. [161180]

Mr. Woolas: DEFRA has overall policy and funding responsibility for flood risk management but not in general for providing financial assistance post-flooding.

I understand that the Department for Communities and Local Government provided £447,565 in respect of Boscastle through the Bellwin scheme. This reimbursed North Cornwall district council for immediate costs relating to safeguarding life and property, and clear up.

I understand some assistance was also provided to businesses by Business Link, which is operated by the Small Business Service (now the Enterprise Directorate), part of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

The Government Office for the South West, South West Regional Development Agency, Business Link and other local agencies set up the Boscastle Regeneration Steering Group to consider and address regeneration needs. Funding was secured via the Objective One European Regional Development Fund to help with post flooding regeneration and tourism marketing efforts.

Since the flooding, works to reduce flood risk have been completed on the Lower Jordan river at a cost of approximately £1.5 million. The works are under way on the River Valency at a current cost prediction of £5.6 million, and scheduled for completion in 2008.

Floods: EC Grants and Loans

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on progress of the UK's application to the European Union for financial assistance following the summer floods. [158532]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Eddisbury (Mr. O'Brien) on 23 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 180-1W.

Fly Tipping

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many fly-tipping incidents were reported through the Flycapture database in each local authority in each year since the database was established. [158094]

Joan Ruddock: I have arranged for a table to be placed in the Library of the House showing the number of fly-tipping incidents and prosecutions recorded in each local authority by local authorities on Flycapture for 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Following the release of the 2006-07 Flycapture statistics on 9 October 2007, this information has been sent to all MPs and has been placed in the Printed Paper Office.

It is also available to download electronically on DEFRA's Flycapture website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/localenv/flytipping/flycapture-data.htm

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate his Department has made of the tonnage of fly-tipping in England in each year. [158095]

Joan Ruddock: Flycapture, the national database of fly-tipping incidents, was set up in 2004 by DEFRA, the Environment Agency and the Local Government Association, to record the number of fly-tipping incidents dealt with by the Environment Agency and local authorities. Flycapture does not record fly-tipping tonnages.

However, WasteDataFlow, the online system for local authorities to report on their municipal waste, does include a category for fly-tipping tonnages. In 2005-06 (the only year for which complete data are available), authorities reported around 140,000 tonnes of residual waste arising from the clearance of fly-tipped materials. However, this figure is likely to be an underestimate where authorities collect fly-tipped tonnages as part of their street cleaning or other regular waste collection rounds, or are able to send this waste for recycling.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 83W to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove), on fly-tipping, for what reason the estimated number of fly-tipping incidents between April 2005 and March 2006 in England differs from the figure given in the

answer of 1 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 458W to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman), on fly-tipping. [158279]

Joan Ruddock: The difference between the data reported in the answer to the hon. Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman) of 1 November 2006 and the answer to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) of 25 June 2007 is due to the fact that the earlier answer did not include figures for Liverpool city council and Sheffield city council.

When my Department originally published the fly-tipping data for 2005-06, a decision was taken to exclude the figures reported by Liverpool city council and Sheffield city council so that we could first ascertain that figures provided by the councils (which accounted for half of all fly-tips in England) had been correctly recorded. The figures were included as a footnote to the statistical release and were available on request.

However, following discussions with the councils concerned, it was apparent that these high incident numbers were being recorded correctly and that similar numbers would continue to be recorded. The data for Liverpool city council and Sheffield city council are now included in all Flycapture statistics and were included in the answer to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath of 25 June 2007.

Following the release of Flycapture data for 2006-07 on 9 October 2007, I wrote to all Members on 15 October that have tabled parliamentary questions on fly-tipping statistics in the last 12 months, to inform them that the statistics in the answer they were originally given in respect of previous years may have changed.

Foot and Mouth Disease

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what access *(a)* visitors, *(b)* students and *(c)* temporary or part-time students had to foot and mouth virus strains at the Institute of Animal Health at Pirbright in the last 12 months; what the application procedures were for activities involving such access; and if he will make a statement. [160381]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

These are matters for the Institute for Animal Health. Institute of Animal Health at Pirbright is part of the independent Institute for Animal Health (IAH), a company limited by guarantee with charitable status. By convention its operations therefore fall outside the scope of parliamentary questions, however I have drawn the attention of the Director to the hon. Member's questions.

Genetically Modified Organisms

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether the summary of responses to his Department's consultation on the coexistence of GM, conventional and organic crops is awaiting ministerial approval before publication; and when he expects it to be published; [161469]

(2) what plans there are for consideration at EU level of policies on the coexistence of GM, conventional and organic crops in 2008; and what his Department's policy objectives for that consideration are; [161470]

(3) how his Department intends to proceed with bringing forward legislation on coexistence of GM, conventional and organic crops in England and liability issues arising. [161471]

Mr. Woolas: Defra will publish the summary of responses to the public consultation on the coexistence of GM, conventional and organic crops when we set out the Government's plans on the next steps towards legislation in this area. This is expected shortly.

At EU level, the Council has mandated the Commission to develop crop specific guidance documents for coexistence measures. To this end the Commission is establishing a European Coexistence Bureau (ECoB). This is a move Her Majesty's Government supports.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Crops

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research his Department has assessed on separation distances between GM and conventional crops for *(a)* maize, *(b)* beet and *(c)* oilseed rape; and whether he plans to review existing separation distances in each case. [161278]

Mr. Woolas: In July 2006, the Government set out their proposals on managing the coexistence of Genetically Modified (GM), conventional and organic crops in a consultation document, which is available on the DEFRA website.

This explains the research used to assess the separation distances for maize and oilseed rape. It also explains that separation distance for beet is not an issue as cross-pollination does not affect harvested beet.

The Government are currently considering the results of the public consultation and will make a statement on future plans.

Gyrodactylus Salaris

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will provide publicity at English ports and on ferries on the dangers of Gyrodactylus salaris before summer 2008; [161404]

(2) if he will enhance his Department's work on raising awareness of the dangers to fisheries posed by Gyrodactylus salaris; [161405]

(3) if he will take steps to ensure that his Department works more effectively with the Scottish Executive and sectoral canoeing and angling-based organisations to help counteract the potential threats of Gyrodactylus salaris. [161408]

Jonathan Shaw: Gyrodactylus salaris (Gs) is a parasite that has the potential to cause widespread losses in both wild and farmed Atlantic salmon. The UK is free of Gs and we have robust legislative safeguards on trade in live fish to help ensure this remains the case.

DEFRA has carried out publicity campaigns in recent years to raise awareness among the public and advice on how to keep Gs out of the country is contained in our "Keep Fish Diseases Out" series of guidance leaflets. We are planning a further campaign before the summer of 2008 and although details have yet to be finalised, a key theme will be the danger of introducing Gs through travel to and from high-risk areas.

DEFRA also has comprehensive contingency plans for combating Gs and officials are in regular contact with their counterparts in other Departments and the devolved administrations on measures to update these plans and awareness campaigns.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many combination boilers have been installed by the Warm Front programme in the last three years. [161196]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the number of combination boilers installed by Warm Front since the introduction of 'heating for all Warm Front eligible clients' in 2005.

Period	*Number of combination boilers*
1 June 2005 to 31 March 2006	16,984
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	61,208
1 April 2007 to 30 September 2007	39,835

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to his Department of Warm Front was in each of the last three years. [161197]

Mr. Woolas: My Department's expenditure on the Warm Front Scheme in the last three years is set out in the table as follows:

	£ million
2004-05	166
2005-06	192
2006-07	320

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Standards

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who the independent quality assessors appointed by his Department are; who are responsible for ensuring that Warm Front's pricing system is fair and reflects the market rate. [161254]

Mr. Woolas: Defra, as the Department responsible for the Warm Front Scheme, has responsibility for ensuring the value for money of the scheme.

White Young Green are the independent auditors, appointed by my Department to assess the delivery of the scheme.

Institute of Animal Health: Manpower

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when the post of Deputy Director of Science, Institute of Animal Health at Pirbright was *(a)* created and *(b)* filled; [160382]

(2) who was responsible for *(a)* biosecurity and *(b)* health and safety at the Institute of Animal Health at Pirbright prior to 1 September 2007; and if he will make a statement. [160383]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

These are matters for the Institute for Animal Health. I have drawn the attention of the director to the hon. Member's questions.

Interdepartmental Working Group on British Waterways

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs who will be represented on the Interdepartmental Working Group on British Waterways which was referred to in the Government's response to the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee's Seventh Report of Session 2006-07, page 5; when the Group is expected to hold its first meeting; and if he will make a statement. [160797]

Jonathan Shaw: I have recently written to the Secretaries of State for Culture, Media and Sport, Transport, Health and Communities and Local Government seeking their support for a cross-Government group on inland waterways. I envisage this group working together to strengthen contact between departments and to help with better recognition of what inland waterways can achieve in delivering a wide range of Government objectives.

DEFRA officials are in the process of agreeing the membership and setting up the inaugural meeting of the group, which I envisage taking place before the end of the year.

Land Drainage: Crops

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the role of land drainage in crop production. [161277]

Mr. Woolas: I am not aware of any recent work to assess the role of land drainage in crop production.

The impact of land drainage on crops will vary depending on the soil type and crop type, and we would expect this to be for the individual landowner to assess.

Pesticides

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations he has received from the Amenity Forum on the use of pesticides; and if he will meet representatives of the Forum to discuss the matter. [161259]

Mr. Woolas: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has received various representations from the Amenity Forum on the use of pesticides. He currently has no plans to meet with representatives of the forum but will be happy to do so, diary permitting.

Radioactive Wastes: Waste Management

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management recommendation that any consideration of new nuclear waste arising from new nuclear build would raise practical issues which would need to be subject to a separate assessment and consultation process. [160850]

Mr. Woolas: The way in which the Government views the issue of new build wastes in light of the Committee on Radioactive Waste Management's recommendations is set out in the consultation document "The Future of Nuclear Power: the Role of Nuclear Power in a Low Carbon UK Economy". The consultation document "Managing Radioactive Waste Safely: a Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal" gives further details of the Government's proposals for managing any future new build nuclear waste. The management arrangements for any future new nuclear build waste will be decided in light of the outcome to these two consultations.

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which parts of the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely: A framework for implementing geological disposal consultation specifically address the issue of new build nuclear waste. [160851]

Mr. Woolas: It is not the purpose of the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely consultation to address the issue of whether or not it is in the public interest to allow energy companies to invest in new nuclear power stations. This is being considered by the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform in a separate consultation "The Future of Nuclear Power: the Role of Nuclear Power in a Low Carbon UK Economy". This consultation closed on 10 October 2007 and responses are now being analysed.

The Managing Radioactive Waste Safely consultation anticipates that, in the event that there were new nuclear power stations, waste and spent fuel from those stations could be accommodated in the same geological disposal facility.

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if he will publish the results of the Managing Radioactive Waste Safely: A framework for implementing geological disposal consultation at the same time as those of the Future of Nuclear Power consultation; and what steps he plans to take to ensure that the two exercises are integrated; [160852]

(2) how the timing of any decision arising from the Future of Nuclear Power consultation will take account of the High Court's findings that waste issues from any future nuclear new build must be explained in full. [160853]

Mr. Woolas: We will publish the results of the "Future of Nuclear Power: the Role of Nuclear Power in a Low Carbon Economy" and the "Managing Radioactive Waste Safely: a Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal" consultations once the respective response analyses are complete. Any decision to allow new nuclear build would include guidance on how resulting radioactive waste could be safely managed.

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether community benefit packages will be extended to those communities which host interim stores of nuclear waste pending permanent waste disposal; and whether those packages will be extendable permanently if disposal does not occur within a set time period. [160854]

Mr. Woolas: The statement made by the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs to Parliament on 25 October 2006 stated that circumstances surrounding the long-term disposal of higher activity radioactive waste are unique. The proposals set out in the consultation document "Managing Radioactive Waste Safely: a Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal" only apply to the disposal of such waste.

Waste Disposal

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what specific actions the Waste Strategy Board is undertaking to ensure the adequacy of biological treatment infrastructure in order to meet targets in waste strategy 2007; [160357]

(2) what proposals the Waste Strategy Board has to inform local communities about the merits of new biological treatment infrastructure; [160358]

Joan Ruddock: The Waste Strategy Board has been established to drive forward and monitor delivery of Waste Strategy 2007 targets across Government. The board will develop new policy actions to achieve Waste Strategy objectives as necessary and in light of progress made in specific areas.

The Waste Strategy sets out measures that the Government have put in place to secure the investment in infrastructure needed to divert waste from landfill. This includes working with Communities and Local Government to take forward specific aspects of the strategy, including planning.

It remains vital that regional spatial strategies and local development documents look forward and make adequate provision for the appropriate types and scales of infrastructure and waste treatment facilities needed, including biological treatment plants. It is also important for specific, suitable sites to be identified in plans.

DEFRA's Waste Implementation Delivery Programme (WIDP) is maintaining a national overview of existing and planned residual treatment capacity to ensure that resources are applied in the most effective manner.

DEFRA's New Technologies Demonstrator Programme aims to demonstrate innovative waste treatment technologies as possible alternatives to landfill. The programme aims to prove the economic, social and environmental viability of each selected technology, half of which are biological treatment technologies. Each site will have a visitor centre, which will be open throughout the plant's participation in the programme. These will enable representatives from local authorities and the waste sector to learn more about the particular strengths and weaknesses of each technology.

As mentioned in the Waste Strategy 2007, DEFRA is also considering ways to raise public awareness of the options and issues relating to waste management infrastructure, including biological treatment plants. The aim is to provide evidence-based information which will aid public comprehension of the options. Communications activity is tentatively planned for early 2008.

Waste Management: Surveillance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Waste and Resources Action Programme has given to local authorities on the use of surveillance in relation to (i) fly-tipping and (ii) waste collection. [158092]

Joan Ruddock: My Department has not issued specific guidance on surveillance to local authorities in relation to fly-tipping or waste collection.

The Regulation and Investigatory Power Act 2000 legislates for using methods of surveillance and information gathering to help the prevention of crime. Information and guidance, including a code of practice is available on the Home Office website.

DEFRA has, along with the Welsh Assembly Government, funded the development of Flycapture Enforcement, a training package specifically designed for local authority enforcement officers, lawyers and managers to increase their knowledge of the relevant fly-tipping legislation and to develop skills in effective fly-tipping enforcement and prosecution. This training package contains a module on the Regulation and Investigatory Power Act 2000.

DEFRA has also provided funding to the Jill Dando Institute of Crime Science to produce research on fly-tipping ("Fly-tipping: Causes, Incentives and Solutions"). This included a Good Practice Guide for Local Authorities which contains material on a variety of crime prevention techniques, including surveillance. Both documents have been distributed to all local authorities in England.

Yorkshire Derwent Catchment Flood Management Plan

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much it cost the Environment Agency to *(a)* write and assemble, *(b)* print and *(c)* distribute the Yorkshire Derwent Catchment Flood Management Plan. [160728]

Mr. Woolas: The Catchment Flood Management Plan for the river Derwent was one of the national pilot plans, and as such much 'shaping' work was done in this plan, which cost £250,000 to write and assemble.

This includes all work to produce the various stages of draft and final plan. Print and distribution costs will amount to an estimated £1,000.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [161138]

Mr. Malik: DFID monitors the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan very closely. We receive regular updates from The United Nations Assistance Mission to Afghanistan and other UN agencies such as the High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Office for Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA).

Since 2001 over 4.8 million refugees have returned to Afghanistan, but it still has the largest number of refugees in the world. Over one-quarter of the country's population is reported to have sought refuge outside the country. As of August 2007, more than 120,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) were spread across the country but mainly in the south. More long term IDPs are occurring in the south, caused mainly by drought and insecurity. Recent displacement is caused by human rights violations, inter-communal tensions, floods or drought. According to government figures, conflict in the south this year has displaced 15,000-20,000 families. Afghanistan remains one of the most heavily mined countries in the world and estimates suggest that mines and unexploded ordinance kill or injure an average of two Afghans every day; 50 per cent. of these victims are children.

According to recent reports from the United Nations, humanitarian access has become a growing challenge, with at least 78 districts rated as extremely risky and inaccessible to UN agencies. At the end of August this year, the total number of reported incidents show that 41 humanitarian workers had been killed, and 70 had been abducted, with one tenth of those abducted killed by their captors.

In 2006-07 DFID provided £1.6 million in bilateral humanitarian aid to Afghanistan. Afghanistan is also one of the largest recipients of UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) support, to which the UK is the largest contributor (23 per cent. of total CERF value in 2006). Afghanistan received $32.3 million from CERF in 2006. We also provide core funding to UNICEF, the World Food Programme, and UNHCR, all of whom have operations in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps are being taken to introduce a UN approved co-ordinator to head international reconstruction and development work in Afghanistan. [161124]

Mr. Malik: The introduction of a UN approved co-ordinator to head international reconstruction and development work in Afghanistan would be a decision for the UN Security Council, and would require a vote on and creation of a new UN mandate by member states.

Tom Koenigs is the current special representative to the Secretary-General in Afghanistan. He has responsibility for co-ordinating the activities of UN agencies in Afghanistan, including their reconstruction and development work. Broader co-ordination of international reconstruction and development work is carried out through donor conferences (for example; the London Conference on Afghanistan in 2006) and their follow up mechanisms such as the Joint Co-ordination and Monitoring Board.

Africa: Floods

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the World Food Programme on the recent flooding in Africa. [157536]

Mr. Thomas: The Secretary of State has had no discussions with the World Food Programme (WFP) on the recent flooding in Africa. However, DFID officials are in regular contact with WFP staff at headquarters and country level. In Uganda and Ghana, several discussions have taken place around the need for detailed assessments to determine the level and nature of impact on the flood-affected population.

DFID has provided £8.3 million in response to the flooding, including £750,000 through the WFP for food aid and logistics in Uganda.

Africa: Skilled Workers

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the European Blue Card Scheme on the technical and engineering capacity of developing African countries *(a)* in conflict and *(b)* post conflict; and if he will make a statement. [161603]

Mr. Thomas: Detail from the European Commission on how the blue card scheme would work is not yet available. This makes it difficult to assess the potential impact of the scheme on technical and engineering capacity of developing African countries both in conflict and post-conflict.

However, DFID is very conscious of the consequences for developing countries of 'brain drain' and is taking measures to address skills shortages in key sectors in Africa. For example, DFID is working to strengthen the capacity of health systems in countries such as Malawi to retain health workers, and in some countries we are supporting efforts to attract skilled professionals back to key sectors. Countries in conflict are prone to losing skilled staff through out-migration. Post-conflict reconstruction and development programmes can create new job opportunities for engineers and some technical specialists, although it takes time to rebuild an adequate pool of skilled people.

Baroness Vadera

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) whether Baroness Vadera has attended meetings at HM Treasury on the international economic system. [159449]

(2) whether Baroness Vadera has attended meetings at HM Treasury on Northern Rock; [159818]

(3) what meetings Baroness Vadera has had with representatives of UBS on the sale of Northern Rock to Lloyds TSB. [159823]

Mr. Malik: Ministers and senior officials meet a range of individuals and organisations to discuss policy and delivery issues. As was the case with the previous Administration, the Government does not provide details of all such meetings.

Burma: Human Rights

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to improve *(a)* access to primary education, *(b)* access to electricity, food and other necessities of life and *(c)* employment opportunities for people in Burma in the long-term; and if he will make a statement. [161513]

Mr. Malik: DFID's aid to Burma increased from £2 million in 2002 to £8 million this year. A further £1 million was agreed this month in order to meet urgent humanitarian needs following the violent crack-down of recent protests. Earlier today my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for International Development, announced that DFID's aid to Burma would double to £18 million by 2010-11.

DFID's programme in Burma is focused on health, education, rural livelihoods and support for transition towards democratic change. To improve access to basic education we are currently providing £3.3 million through UNICEF and £2.7 million through Save the Children, each over three years. We are providing £4 million over four years through the United Nations Development Programme to improve food security and enable people in rural areas to increase their family incomes, and we are funding community development programmes through non-governmental organisations. We are also providing £1.8 million over three years to help meet the needs of Burmese refugees on the Thai border. Part of the additional £1 million agreed for urgent humanitarian needs in October will be used to improve access to food by poor and vulnerable people in Burma.

Burma: Politics and Government

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will take steps to increase aid for non-governmental organisations working to promote change in Burma. [161655]

Mr. Malik: DFID is providing financial support to a number of Burmese community-based organisations which are working to build the foundations for a more democratic and accountable society in Burma. We are now setting up a new fund of £3 million to help

Burmese organisations to promote people's participation in local level decision making, for example in forest management, agriculture, education and health services.

In addition, DFID is prepared to consider applications for funding by groups inside and outside Burma which are working on sustainable development and democratisation in Burma. Funding decisions would be based on the availability of resources, the likely impact of proposed projects, their having a clear purpose of poverty reduction, and normal criteria regarding transparency and accountability.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Overseas Aid

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what humanitarian assistance his Department is providing to civilians affected by renewed conflict in the eastern provinces of Democratic Republic of Congo. [160612]

Mr. Thomas: DFID is providing £35 million in humanitarian aid for DRC in total for 2007. Most of this money (£30 million) is provided to the DRC Humanitarian Pooled Fund which brings together several major donors and allows the Humanitarian Co-ordinator to allocate funds to UN agencies and NGOs. The Pooled Fund—now totalling some $100 million—allocates resources for priority humanitarian food, health, water and sanitation and protection activities. A recent emergency allocation of $5 million from the Pooled Fund was provided to UNICEF, WFP and others for additional food, health and shelter items for the displaced population. The UK is the largest humanitarian donor in DRC and the largest contributor to the Pooled Fund. The Humanitarian Co-ordinator has also called upon the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) to provide an additional emergency allocation of $5 million for the current crisis in the east. DFID is one of the main contributors to the CERF.

DFID also provides direct support (£5 million in 2007) to other humanitarian organisations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, Merlin, the International Rescue Committee, the Catholic Agency for Overseas Development and Medicins Sans Frontieres, all of whom are currently working in North Kivu. In addition, we have lobbied for all agencies to focus all available resources on those areas most in need in DRC at this time.

Departments: Assets

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what departmental assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; and what the expected revenue from each such sale is. [160355]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's fixed assets (£88 million at 31 March 2007) are mainly its offices and information systems. The need to retain particular assets is kept under review, and there is a regular and routine process of disposing of assets such as vehicles and IT equipment at the end of their useful lives. Estimates provision for 2007-08 and budgets set out in the Comprehensive Spending Review plans do not include any non-routine receipts from fixed asset disposals. Fuller details of asset management practices will be set out in an Asset Management Strategy to be published later this year.

Departments: Disabled People

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which buildings occupied by his Department *(a)* are and *(b)* are not fully accessible to disabled people; and if he will make a statement. [161172]

Mr. Malik: DFID has two UK buildings and both are accessible to disabled people. Audits have been carried out in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, and all reasonable adjustments made.

Departments: Seafood Procurement

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which companies have contracts to supply his Department with fish; and when those contracts will end. [160959]

Mr. Malik: All UK food procurement is carried out through our contracted catering company. Fish is sourced through M+J Seafood. This contract is due to end on 30 November 2007.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what consideration his Department has given to introducing a sustainable seafood procurement policy. [160960]

Mr. Malik: My Department is currently in the process of re-tendering our catering contract, and emphasis has been put on prospective caterers ensuring that they provide only foodstuffs which are from sustainable sources.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what quantity of cod from the North Sea or Eastern Baltic was procured by his Department in 2006. [160961]

Mr. Malik: In 2006, my Department procured approx 5 kg of cod from North Sea or Eastern Baltic origins.

Departments: Fixed Penalties

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many fixed penalty tickets were incurred by vehicles within the purview of his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the total cost was. [157875]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) uses four vehicles provided by GCDA. I refer the hon. Member to the answer provided by my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick) on 18 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1185-86W, in respect of these vehicles.

DFID has one other vehicle used for official purposes. This vehicle has not incurred any fixed penalty tickets in the last year.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what the name is of each special adviser in his Department. [153121]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The annual list of special adviser names will be published shortly.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what dates his Department breached its *(a)* resource, *(b)* near-cash, *(c)* administration and *(d)* capital budgets since 2001; what the total value of each breach was; and what the reason was for each breach. [160318]

Mr. Thomas: There were no budget breaches by the Department for International Development during the period 2001-02 to 2006-07.

Please refer to the information contained in Public Expenditure Outturn White Papers (PEOWP) 2001-02 to 2006-07. References for these documents are:

PEOWP 2001-02 (Cm 5574)
PEOWP 2002-03 (Cm 5884)
PEOWP 2003-04 (Cm 6293)
PEOWP 2004-05 (Cm 6639)
PEOWP 2005-06 (Cm 6883)
PEOWP 2006-07 (Cm 7156)

PEOWP reports provisional outturn figures for the year against the final HM Treasury control totals on the basis of the budgeting regime that applied in-year. Spending is reported for departments as they were constituted at the end of the relevant year.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in which financial years since 2001 his Department's outturn for its capital budget at the end of the year was less than planned at the beginning of the year; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* reason for the underspend was in each case. [160337]

Mr. Thomas: The National Audit Office measures spending performance against plans by comparing outturns against final provision following supplementary estimates—rather than against plans at the start of the year—as plans can change during the year for a number of reasons, such as machinery of government and classification changes. The definitive figures for final provision and provisional outturn are published each year in the "Public Expenditure Outturns White Paper". Changes to plans arising in-year are published in "Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses", as are differences between provisional and final outturns.

Information about outturn against DFID's capital budget is included in Public Expenditure Outturn White Papers (PEOWP). References for these documents are:

PEOWP 2001-02 (Cm 5574)
PEOWP 2002-03 (Cm 5884)
PEOWP 2003-04 (Cm 6293)
PEOWP 2004-05 (Cm 6639)
PEOWP 2005-06 (Cm 6883)
PEOWP 2006-07 (Cm 7156)

In all years, 2001-02 to 2006-07, the Department's outturn against capital budget was less than final provision. The values are as follows:

£000

	Final provision	*Provisional outturn*	*Underspend*
2001-02	328,160	323,800	4,360
2002-03	13,374	-14,380	27,754
2003-04	39,000	38,546	454
2004-05	40,528	33,151	7,377
2005-06	42,000	23,155	18,845
2006-07	20,000	-9,092	29,092

The variances are explained by a combination of higher than expected loan receipts from loans made through multilateral organisations/and lower than expected capital expenditure—for example because of delays in office accommodation projects overseas, or re-phasing of IT investments.

Departments: Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how many citizens' juries have been arranged by his Department since June 2007; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the estimated cost is of each exercise; [159504]

(2) how many citizens' juries were arranged for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies in each year since 1997; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the cost was of each. [160015]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development has not arranged any citizens' juries since 1997.

Departments: Research

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of his Department's research budget will be spent on research into *(a)* sustainable agriculture, *(b)* life-threatening diseases, *(c)* good governance, *(d)* climate change technology and *(e)* other matters up to 2010-11; and by what mechanisms funding in each category will be allocated to projects. [159557]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Central Research Department will spend approximately £710 million from now until 2010-11. Of this we estimate that approximately two thirds will be spent on research into sustainable agriculture, life-threatening diseases, good governance and climate change adaptation.

However, a new research strategy is currently being developed to identify priorities for the period 2008-2013. This will determine the priorities and budget allocations during that five year period.

Research projects are currently funded through a range of mechanisms including product development partnerships, core support to multilateral (for example, the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research) and through bilateral research programmes. The new research strategy will identify which mechanisms we will use during 2008-2013.

Departments: Retirement

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by his Department applied to continue to work beyond state retirement age in the latest year or part thereof for which figures are available; and how many of those applications were successful. [161296]

Mr. Malik: From 1 January to 30 September 2007, nine members of staff in DFID reached the state retirement age and opted to work on. No one was declined this option.

DFID does not have any staff in any executive agencies or non-departmental public bodies.

Departments: Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many and what percentage of questions tabled to his Department for answer on a named day received a substantive reply on the day named in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [161350]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: In the period from September 2006 to September 2007, a total of 226 named day parliamentary questions were tabled to the Department for International Development, of which 204 received a substantive reply on the day named (90 per cent).

Export Credit Guarantees

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what advice his Department has provided to the Export Credits Guarantee Department (ECGD) on the impact of the businesses supported by ECGD on achieving the Millennium Development Goals. [161239]

Mr. Thomas: Export Credits Guarantee Department's (ECGD) support for UK exporters to do business in the poorest countries is subject to the Government's productive expenditure guidelines. DFID provides advice to HM Treasury on each proposal on whether it is likely to make a positive contribution to the country's economic and social development, whether it is consistent with national development plans and whether it is consistent with the Government's objectives on ensuring countries do not take on too much debt. ECGD, DFID and HM Treasury are working together to secure an OECD agreement that will ensure a common approach to responsible support for business with the poorest countries.

Overseas Aid: Environment Protection

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development by what means the effectiveness of the environmental transformation fund will be measured. [159556]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The environment transformation fund (ETF) has an £800 million international window to be shared equally between DFID and DEFRA, and a domestic window of £370 million shared between DEFRA and DBERR. The international window will support development and poverty reduction through environmental protection, and help poor countries respond to climate change.

HMG will consult widely in developing the detailed objectives and delivery plan for the use of the £800 million allocated to the international window. This will include proposals on how to monitor impact and performance of the fund. The international ETF will be operational from April 2008.

A key focus of the international ETF should be on the development impact of climate change, through mitigation and adaptation. £50 million has already been earmarked for tackling deforestation in the Congo Basin.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much he has allocated to overseas conservation organisations aimed at improving the use of natural resources and protecting endangered species in developing countries, with particular reference to primates. [159679]

Mr. Thomas: DFID's priority, as expressed in the International Development Act, is the reduction of poverty. Any DFID engagement in overseas conservation must therefore deliver direct and tangible benefits to the poor.

DFID contributions relevant to overseas conservation and development are channelled through a range of mechanisms. DFID contributes £15.4 million per year to biodiversity conservation through the Global Environment Facility (GEF), WWF-UK and the Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP). The UK is one of the largest contributors to the GEF, and DFID provides the largest share of the OTEP across HMG. Our research programmes, notably the Ecosystem Services and Poverty Reduction (£30 million over five years) and our contribution to the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research institutions (£10 million/year) will also deliver important collateral benefits to conservation. Our contribution to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) (£6 million/four years), our work on advising the UN Convention on Biological Diversity on forest and fisheries governance, and the incorporation of environmental issues into national development programmes, will also benefit conservation.

This year the UK also announced the three year £800 million Environmental Transformation Fund to support sustainable development and poverty reduction through environmental protection and help developing countries respond to climate change.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 138W, on Palestinians: international assistance, what progress has been made by the EU towards urgently developing the conditions for direct practical and financial assistance to the Palestinian Emergency Government; and what the UK role has been in this regard. [157530]

Mr. Malik: The UK, European Commission (EC) and other EU donors are already providing financial and practical assistance to the Palestinian Authority (PA). On 24 July, the EC announced $123 million (£62 million) of extra funding for 2007. EU donors Sweden and France have committed direct budgetary support. The UK is helping the PA to prepare a reform and development plan and improve financial management systems, as a basis for more significant medium-term donor support. On 17 July, DFID also announced £3 million to help the PA pay off debts to the private sector.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [161142]

Mr. Thomas: The humanitarian situation in Darfur is deteriorating. The seasonal 'hunger gap' has been more acute this year with higher than expected rates of malnutrition, particularly in the camps. Furthermore, ongoing clashes have meant that the number of people displaced continues to rise: a further 260,000 people this year alone, adding to the more than two million people already living in camps across the region. The camps are overstretched and becoming increasingly volatile. Recent violence in Kalma camp, South Darfur, has re-displaced up to 30,000 people.

The increase in needs has been compounded by an escalation of attacks by armed groups against humanitarian agencies. Since the start of the year, over 100 humanitarian vehicles have been hijacked, often violently, and five humanitarian aid workers have been killed. This is having a serious impact on the ability of humanitarian agencies to deliver vital aid to those in need.

The UK is prominent in urging all sides to immediately cease hostilities, attend the proposed peace talks in Libya and respect the neutrality of humanitarian workers.

Zimbabwe: Sanitary Protection

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to address the lack of access to basic sanitary protection for women in Zimbabwe. [161562]

Mr. Thomas: DFID provides up to £40 million per year to assist Zimbabweans in need. The problem of sanitary provision in Zimbabwe is part of a wider economic and governance crisis which has led to an acute shortage of basic and essential goods.

During this crisis, DFID is providing substantial direct assistance to protect livelihoods, tackle HIV/AIDS, and help meet the humanitarian needs of more than 1.5 million poor people in Zimbabwe. Some of our NGO partners are providing sanitary products to girls and young women as part of a £22 million programme in support of orphans and vulnerable children. DFID-supported programmes also provide cash to poor people to help meet basic needs such as food, education and health—including sanitary provision.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Armed Forces: Multiple Sclerosis

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many service personnel were diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and discharged under the old war pension scheme (AFCS75) *(a)* with and *(b)* without the award of attributable benefits; [159088]

(2) how many service personnel were released other than on medical grounds but have subsequently been awarded war pensions (AFCS75) and attributable benefits because they suffered symptoms of multiple sclerosis whilst serving; [159089]

(3) how many service personnel with multiple sclerosis were discharged under the new scheme (AFCS05) *(a)* with and *(b)* without attributable benefits; [159090]

(4) how many service personnel have been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis whilst still serving and have been awarded benefits under the AFCS05 scheme. [159091]

Derek Twigg: I have been asked to reply.

Multiple sclerosis is a disorder whose cause is currently unknown. There is no published peer-reviewed scientific or medical evidence to suggest any link with particular occupations including between any factor of service in the armed forces and the development of multiple sclerosis.

Information is not held centrally as to the total number of serving and retired service personnel suffering from multiple sclerosis and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Records do however show that there are 380 former service personnel currently in receipt of a war disablement pension under the War Pension Scheme (WPS), with an accepted claim for multiple sclerosis. The records do not identify when these pensioners were diagnosed with multiple sclerosis or whether it was the reason for their discharge.

The WPS provides no-fault compensation for all former service personnel disabled as a result of their service in the armed forces before 6 April 2005. Awards are made under the WPS where, on the individual case facts and under the legislation, a causal link to service can be accepted. The WPS onus and standard of proof mean that causal links may be lawfully recognised which do not reflect contemporary medical evidence. Where a disablement has clinical onset during service and leads to medical discharge, claims are automatically considered. In that situation or where a claim is made

within seven years of service termination, entitlement will be certified unless it can be shown by evidence beyond reasonable doubt that service has played no part in the cause or course of the disorder. In these circumstances claims for multiple sclerosis may succeed on that basis.

Any service personnel who develop multiple sclerosis in service and are medically discharged may be entitled to ill-health benefits under the terms of their occupational pension scheme.

Information is not held centrally which can identify former service personnel released on non-medical grounds, who have subsequently been awarded war pensions for suffering the symptoms of multiple sclerosis while in service. To obtain the information would involve the examination of individual files which could be done only at disproportionate cost—there are currently around 178,000 people in receipt of a war disablement pension.

No service personnel have been diagnosed with multiple sclerosis and awarded attributable benefits under the Armed Forces Pension Scheme. Less than five service personnel have been discharged without benefits. The scheme provides no-fault compensation for all serving and former service personnel for injury/illness caused on or after 6 April 2005. It awards benefits where the evidence shows, on the balance of probabilities, that service is the predominant cause of the injury or disorder.

Cemeteries

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* serious injuries and *(b)* deaths resulted from unsafe gravestones in each year since 2000. [160305]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 25 October 2007]:* Reliable data for the period requested are not available. However, the available data show that 21 serious accidents caused by falling gravestones and memorials, were reported to the Health and Safety Executive over the last seven years, including three fatalities.

Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the projected total cost is of establishing the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. [156918]

Mr. Plaskitt: Officials are currently developing plans to establish the Commission. As these plans are still under development cost estimates are subject to change and it is therefore not possible to provide the requested information at this time. We expect to have robust cost estimates by the time the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill receives Royal Assent.

Child Support Agency

Mr. Jack: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what opportunities existing employees of the Child Support Agency will have to work for its successor body; and if he will make a statement. [161052]

Mr. Plaskitt: The people employed in the Child Support Agency are its biggest asset, and they will be critical in developing the modern, innovative service that needs to be put in place.

All people who carry out functions of the Child Support Agency in Great Britain will move to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, at the same time as the functions are transferred.

People transferring will be given the full protection of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006.

Child Support Agency: ICT

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what contracted-out IT projects for the Child Support Agency have been concluded since 1997; how many times the specification for each such project was changed; and what changes in specification were made. [160372]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 25 October 2007]:* The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Duncan Gilchrist, dated 29 October 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what contracted-out IT projects for the Child Support Agency have been concluded since 1997; how many times the specification for each such project was changed; and what changes in specification were made. (160372)

All contracted out IT projects since 1997 were incorporated into the Child Support Reforms programme and subsequently the Operational Improvement Plan supplied by EDS and BT. Although the CS2 system developed by EDS still had residual defects the Child Support Reforms programme was technically concluded in August 2005 with a £107m downward adjustment to the contracted cost, which was used by the Department to help fund the Operational Improvement Plan. In addition to the contracted scope for the Child Support Reforms programme, the Agency requested 130 detailed changes, plus the development of a management information system.

Following a period of requirements development an outsourced programme to deliver the IT Strand of the Agency's Operational Improvement Plan was started in November 2006. This programme comprises a number of interconnected projects some of which have been delivered. Completed projects with the Operational Improvement Programme IT Strand are:

CS2 bulk conversion capability

CS2 top priority defect fixes

Support for external debt collection agencies

Clerical database enhancements

Interim telephony enhancements

Interim workflow enhancements

CS2 performance enhancements

Incorporation of the DWP Customer Information System (as a replacement to the Departmental Central Index)

Upgrades to the complaints handling system

The major components of the programme, fundamentally enhanced CS2 and telephony applications to support the Agency's new business model, are scheduled for delivery by EDS and BT to the Agency in the current financial year. So far there has been one change to the detailed requirements for the CS2 project, which has been absorbed by EDS without any impact on cost. This change involved numerous low level detailed changes to support more efficient running in the operational environment.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Maintenance

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many non-resident parents the Child Support Agency is seeking to collect maintenance from in each London constituency. [159010]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 29 October 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many non-resident parents the Child Support Agency is seeking to collect maintenance from in each London constituency. [15910]

The number of cases where the Child Support Agency is seeking to collect maintenance from a non-resident parent living in a London constituency is provided in the attached table. This includes all cases in which a positive maintenance liability exists. The available information relates to cases only, a non-resident parent may have more than one case.

The number of cases in London parliamentary constituencies with a positive maintenance liability: September 2007

	Cases with a positive maintenance liability	
Parliamentary constituency	*New scheme*	*Old scheme*
Barking	830	440
Battersea	540	190
Beckenham	560	270
Bethnal Green and Bow	660	370
Bexleyheath and Crayford	500	440
Brent East	560	280
Brent North	340	160
Brent South	720	500
Brentford and Isleworth	570	350
Bromley and Chislehurst	420	330
Camberwell and Peckham	1,070	400
Carshalton and Wallington	610	370
Chingford and Woodford Green	370	240
Chipping Barnet	340	220
Cities of London and Westminster	450	300
Croydon Central	950	720
Croydon North	1,170	530
Croydon South	500	340
Dagenham	740	470
Dulwich and West Norwood	820	400
Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush	700	350
Ealing North	650	390
Ealing, Southall	680	490
East Ham	750	430
Edmonton	760	390
Eltham	600	480
Enfield North	700	430
Enfield, Southgate	340	180
Erith and Thamesmead	1,000	830
Feltham and Heston	920	530
Finchley and Golders Green	360	280
Greenwich and Woolwich	790	460
Hackney North and Stoke Newington	720	340
Hackney South and Shoreditch	910	370
Hammersmith and Fulham	550	420
Hampstead and Highgate	360	210
Harrow East	440	230
Harrow West	320	330
Hayes and Harlington	640	420
Hendon	790	510
Holborn and St. Pancras	600	300
Hornchurch	370	380
Hornsey and Wood Green	560	270
Ilford North	420	280
Ilford South	650	260
Islington North	650	340
Islington South and Finsbury	560	230
Kensington and Chelsea	220	130
Kingston and Surbiton	450	340
Lewisham, Deptford	840	530
Lewisham East	600	470
Lewisham West	770	540
Leyton and Wanstead	570	270
Mitcham and Morden	680	380
North Southwark and Bermondsey	1,000	520
Old Bexley and Sidcup	410	410
Orpington	540	410
Poplar and Canning Town	960	480
Putney	380	250
Regent's park and North Kensington	750	340
Richmond Park	240	260
Romford	460	480
Ruislip-Northwood	300	200
Streatham	970	350
Sutton and Cheam	440	380
Tooting	460	290
Tottenham	1,210	420
Twickenham	340	380
Upminster	390	330
Uxbridge	410	500
Vauxhall	1,160	510
Walthamstow	660	430
West Ham	830	480
Wimbledon	240	130

Notes:
1. Figures include all cases from CS2 and CSCS computer systems where a positive maintenance liability exists. This includes cases with a positive maintenance outcome as well as those which are nil compliant or positively assessed but not charging.
2. The latest available data is at September 2007.
3. All figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Child Support Agency cases in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* Suffolk have been outstanding for more than five years. [159084]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Duncan Gilchrist, dated 29 October 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many Child Support Agency cases in (a) the East of England and (b) Suffolk have been outstanding for more than five years. [159084]

The Agency begins to process new applications as soon as they are received and continues until they have been cleared. It should be noted that that an outstanding or uncleared application is not necessarily the same as an unprocessed one. The amount of work required to clear a case and the time involved varies considerably depending on, amongst other things, the circumstances of the parents and how readily they co-operate with the Agency. Uncleared applications will be at varying stages in the application processes, with very few being completely unprocessed.

As at the end of September 2007, the Agency had 160 uncleared new scheme cases over 5 years old in the East of England of which 20 were in Suffolk. New scheme uncleared cases over 5 years old are those which were previously under the old scheme, and have been converted to the new scheme via a new scheme calculation. When a new child support application is made, it may be established that the case has one or more links, through the parent with care or non-resident parent or their partners, to existing cases. If a link is established to one or more cases on the old computer system (CSCS), these cases will be transferred to the new computer system (CS2), along with any further cases that are linked to this chain. This is known as reactive migration.

As at the end of September 2007, the Agency had, 1,750 transitional cases uncleared over 5 years old in the East of England of which 130 were in Suffolk. Transitional cases are those subject to the rules of the old Child Support Scheme but which are held on the new scheme computer system, CS2.

Management information on the number of uncleared cases broken down into regions or counties for old scheme cases processed on the CSCS system is not available.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost of raising the child support maintenance disregard for parents on benefits to *(a)* £20 per week from October 2008 and *(b)* £40 per week from April 2010. [161202]

Mr. Plaskitt: We estimate that the cost of increasing the child maintenance disregard to £20 per week by the end of 2008 will be £40 million in 2008-09 and £80 million in 2009-10. Further increasing the child maintenance disregard to £40 per week from April 2010 will cost £140 million in 2010-11. These costs include a full disregard in housing benefit and council tax benefit.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the savings to be made from child maintenance reform and elsewhere in his Department in order to pay for the higher child support maintenance disregard for parents on benefits, as mentioned in the pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review. [161203]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department's CSR 07 Settlement requires it to reduce its expenditure by 5 per cent. per annum in real terms. A value for money delivery agreement setting out how those savings will be realised will be published in December. The cost of meeting the higher child maintenance disregard from 2010-11 has been factored into the planning that will inform that value for money agreement.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how the specified budget for the proposed child support advice and information services will be affected by his Department's decrease in its budget by 5 per cent. per year on average in real terms. [161205]

Mr. Plaskitt: The resources planned for the proposed child maintenance information and support services will be fully provided for from within the funding available to the Department across the CSR 07 period.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on child support reform. [161206]

Mr. Plaskitt: Ministers from the Department for Work and Pensions and the Department for Children, Schools and Families meet regularly on a range of issues of common interest—including child maintenance reform.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of non-resident parents with a present child support liability who, as a result of transfer of their case to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission from 2010 onwards, will see their weekly liability alter by *(a)* between £0 to £10, *(b)* between £10 to £20, *(c)* between £20 to £30 and *(d)* by more than £30 as a result of the difference between their current assessment and the new calculation based on historic tax year information. [161428]

Mr. Plaskitt: The information requested is not available.

With the increased focus on voluntary arrangements and the ending of the requirement that parents with care on benefit be treated as applying for child maintenance, not all of the current Child Support Agency caseload will choose to use the statutory maintenance service. Since we do not know the precise composition of the resulting caseload, it is not possible to estimate the impact on those existing cases of moving to the Commission.

Figures on the amounts paid under the second child support scheme and statutory maintenance arrangements under different income levels and for different family sizes can be found in table 2, page 19 of the Regulatory Impact Assessment which accompanied the Child Maintenance and Other Payments Bill.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many child support cases of *(a)* up to one year, *(b)* one to two years, *(c)* two to three years, *(d)* three to four years, *(e)* four to five years and *(f)* five or more years of age have never been reassessed since originally calculated. [161429]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Duncan Gilchrist, dated 29 October 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many child support cases of (a) up to one year (b) one to two years (c) two to three years (d) three to four years (e) four to five years and (f) five or more years of age have never been reassessed since originally calculated.

The Management Information is only available from the CS2 computer system. The requested information is provided in the attached table.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Number of cases on CS2 by age and assessment status: September 2007

Age of case	*Cases not reassessed*
Under One Year	69,800
One to Two Years	69,100
Two to Three Years	53,400
Three to Four Years	46,000
Four to Five Years	22,900
Over Five Years	64,100

Notes:
1. Includes all open cases with an assessment on CS2 at September 2007.
2. Volumes rounded to the nearest 100.

Children: Poverty

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his Department's latest estimate is of the number of children in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* England living below the poverty line; and if he will make a statement; [161803]

(2) how many and what proportion of children in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* England were living below the poverty line in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [161804]

(3) what his Department's latest estimate is of the number of households in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* England living below the poverty line; and if he will make a statement; [161805]

(4) how many and what proportion of households in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* England were living below the poverty line in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [161806]

(5) what his Department's latest estimate is of the number of disabled children in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* England living below the poverty line; and if he will make a statement; [161808]

(6) how many and what proportion of disabled children in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* England were living below the poverty line in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [161811]

(7) what his Department's latest estimate is of the number of lone parents in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* England living below the poverty line; and if he will make a statement; [161812]

(8) how many and what proportion of lone parents in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* England were living below the poverty line in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [161815]

Caroline Flint: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Council Tax Benefits: Pensioners

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the campaign his Department is running to promote the take-up of council tax benefit by pensioners; and what assessment he has made of the impact of this campaign so far. [158054]

Mr. Plaskitt *[holding answer 17 October 2007]:* The three page claim form that has been introduced means less bureaucracy and better service for pension credit customers. One phone call can give customers access to four benefits—pension credit, state retirement pension, council tax benefit (CTB) and housing benefit (HB). This form is completed for the customer. All they need to do is check it, sign it and send it back.

We are taking other measures to promote the take up of CTB. There are annual awareness campaigns. We have provided local authorities with best practice guidance that contains information about barriers to claiming, ways of overcoming them, and case study examples of good practice to improve take-up. We have supported the three page form arrangements with computer scans run by the Pension Service to discover people getting pension credit but not CTB and this information is passed to local authorities. We encourage local authorities to do take-up activity through our performance standards and have awarded £2.2 million to 38 authorities to increase CTB take-up.

In the longer term, we want to deliver CTB as accessibly, simply and securely as possible. We want to research the feasibility of using data held "across Government" to build profiles of people likely to be entitled. We also want to develop the concept of a "single point of contact" for pensioners, coupled with alignment of application processes that will provide greater efficiency and a better public service.

Our assessment shows that enabling people to access CTB and HB via the Pension Service has resulted so far in over 65,000 more people being paid those benefits.

Crimes of Violence: Public Sector

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many assaults on local government public sector workers there were in each year since 1992, broken down by local authority. [158218]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* A table of the available data on assaults to local government employees, broken down by local authority, between 1996-97 and 2002-03 has been placed in the Library as requested.

Changes to the data collection system in 2002-03 mean that HSE cannot provide figures after that date for local authorities as opposed to figures for public sector workers generally.

Departments: Assets

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what departmental assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; and what the expected revenue from each such sale is. [160404]

Mrs. McGuire: DWP disposed of its vehicle fleet during 2007-08 and entered into a contract for vehicle services. The Department received revenue from this disposal equal to the net book value of approximately £10.5 million. This was the last of DWP's major assets to be disposed of as it moves from asset ownership to contracting for services. There are no material disposals planned for 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Departments: Contracts

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much of the Department's expenditure and what percentage is directed towards contracted provision. [154314]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* In the 2006-07 financial year the Department for Work and Pension's total expenditure (including VAT) on contracted provision was £4,270 million. This represents 3.36 per cent. of the Department's total budget. In line with Treasury guidance the total budget figure used in this calculation comprises both the Department's departmental expenditure limit and annually managed expenditure. It should be noted that the Department's annually managed expenditure largely covers the cost of benefit payments.

Departments: Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance his Department follows on the maximum time taken to respond to hon. Members' correspondence; and what performance against that target was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [158581]

Mr. Plaskitt: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Edward Miliband) on 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 45W.

Departments: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library a breakdown of his Department's efficiency savings in relation to its Spending Review 2004 (SR04) targets, including *(a)* the efficiency projects in the Department, *(b)* the date on which they were initiated and *(c)* how much each was predicted to contribute to the SR04 target. [160539]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department's Spending Review 2004 Efficiency Technical Note was published in December 2005. This set out the SR2004 efficiency targets and how these would be measured. A copy of the DWP Efficiency Technical Note can be found on our website at: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/aboutus/efficiency_tech_note.pdf

Progress on delivery of the efficiency targets is reported six monthly in the Departmental Report and the Autumn Performance Report. The Departmental Report for 2007 [Cm7105], published in May, is the latest publication. This can be found on our website at: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2007/dr07/

Updated figures will be available in the Autumn Performance Report when it is published at the end of November.

DWP is on track to achieve all of its SR2004 efficiency targets.

The major efficiency projects, grouped by business, the date they were initiated and the amount they were predicted to contribute to the SR2004 target in the first return made to OGC (Office of Government Commerce) is in the following table.

Project	*Date initiated*	*Contribution to SR2004 Efficiency Programme[1] (£ million)*
Jobcentre Plus		
Jobcentre Plus Implementation	2003-04	329
Centralisation of Benefit Processing	2004-05	70
The Pension Service		
The Pension Transformation Programme	2001-02	155
Disability and Carers Service		
DCS Change Programme	2003-04	10
Corporate Centre and Enabling Functions		
Payment Modernisation Programme	1999-2000	317
Finance Transformation Programme	2000-01	139
Direct Payment Initiative	2003-04	34
IT Transformation Programme	2003-04	371
HR Change Programme	2003-04	25
Other		93
Total		1,543

[1] As forecast in the first return to OGC.

Departments: Disabled

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which buildings occupied by his Department *(a)* are and *(b)* are not fully accessible to disabled people; and if he will make a statement. [161162]

Mrs. McGuire: My Department is the major occupier of 1,191 buildings. No central data are held of the number of these buildings which are or are not considered to be fully accessible to disabled people.

Where there are access difficulties for disabled people, my Department makes appropriate reasonable adjustments to its arrangements for the recruitment and employment of staff, and the services and functions it delivers to its users, in accordance with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Departments: Location

Mr. Jack: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to provide a regular public transport service for those staff members whose work is to be relocated to Peel Hill from the Government Offices site at Moreland road, St. Anne's; and if he will make a statement. [161053]

Mrs. McGuire: A variety of options for the provision of a bus service are currently being evaluated by the Department in order to establish the most cost-effective, practical and efficient solution.

Departments: Manpower

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how the number of posts in his Department will be affected by the decrease in its budget by 5 per cent. per year on average in real terms. [161204]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department's staffing over the SR 07 period will be determined as part of its business plan for 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the name is of each special adviser in his Department. [153180]

Mrs. McGuire: The annual list of special adviser names will be published shortly.

Departments: Orders and Regulations

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many statutory instruments were laid before Parliament by his Department between 2 November 2005 and 1 July 2007. [161849]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions laid 181 statutory instruments before Parliament between 2 November 2005 and 1 July 2007.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what dates his Department breached its *(a)* resource, *(b)* near-cash, *(c)* administration and *(d)* capital budgets; what the value of each breach was; and what the reason was for each breach. [160323]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions breached its capital budget in the 2003-04 financial year. The value of the breach was £31 million. The reason for the breach was a change in the accounting policy. During the 2003-04 financial year DWP reviewed its accounting policy in respect of capitalisation of expenditure on improvements to leasehold properties. As a result of this review the policy was changed so that expenditure in respect of major capital refurbishment and improvement of properties occupied but not owned was capitalised as leasehold improvements.

The change in accounting policy was not anticipated at the time of the 2003-04 Spring Supplementary Estimate. Consequently, outturn exceeded provision resulting in the breach.

No other breach of the budget totals referred to has occurred in the period.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in which financial years since 2001 his Department's outturn for its capital budget at the end of the year was less than planned at the beginning of the year; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* reason for the underspend was in each case. [160342]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department of Work and Pensions outturn for its capital budget was not less than planned at the beginning of the year for the period covered by the question.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what departmental budget items have been reclassified, under Consolidated Budgeting Guidance, following Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 decisions; and what the *(a)* former and *(b)* new (i) classification and (ii) sum budgeted is in each case. [160394]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department has not reclassified any budget items as a result of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 (CSR07).

The detail of all classification changes in resource and capital budgets made since publication of the Consolidated Budgeting Guidance 2007 will be published shortly after Budget 2008 in chapter three of Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2008.

Departments: Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many citizens' juries were arranged by his Department since June 2007; which organisations have been commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the estimated cost is of each exercise. [159501]

Mrs. McGuire: The Department for Work and Pensions has not arranged any citizens' juries since June 2007.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many citizens' juries were arranged for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies in each year since 1997; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the cost was of each. [160006]

Mrs. McGuire: Data from 1997 are not readily available and would require a significant review of all engagement activities and analysis of the techniques used, extracting costs for citizens' juries at a disproportionate cost.

Departments: Retirement

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by his Department applied to continue to work beyond state retirement age in the latest year or part thereof for which figures are available; and how many of those applications were successful. [161295]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department for Work and Pensions abolished its mandatory retirement age in October 2006. Since then staff below the senior civil service can, if they wish to, simply carry on working past the minimum civil service pension age. They do not have to apply to continue working. Consequently no information is available on numbers of applications or numbers of successful applications.

No information is available for agencies and non-departmental bodies.

Departments: Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of questions tabled to his Department for answer on a named day received a substantive reply on the day named in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [161336]

Mrs. McGuire: In the period from 26 October 2006 to 25 October 2007 605 named day parliamentary questions were tabled to the Department for Work and Pensions, of which 180 received a substantive answer by the named day.

Disability Living Allowance: East Midlands

Mr. Skinner: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women in each constituency in the East Midlands receive the care component higher rate of disability living allowance. [161058]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Disability living allowance highest rate care component—cases in payment: East Midlands Government Office region by parliamentary constituency of claimant (February 2007)

	Female	Male
Amber Valley	590	550
Ashfield	620	650
Bassetlaw	620	600
Blaby	380	360
Bolsover	700	710
Boston and Skegness	610	600
Bosworth	400	380
Broxtowe	490	380
Charnwood	360	310
Chesterfield	640	670
Corby	490	480
Daventry	380	360
Derby North	490	520
Derby South	700	670
Erewash	520	490
Gainsborough	460	440
Gedling	410	450
Grantham and Stamford	430	420
Harborough	390	320
High Peak	480	430
Kettering	410	420
Leicester East	610	540
Leicester South	610	580
Leicester West	540	590
Lincoln	460	560
Loughborough	330	330
Louth and Horncastle	760	770
Mansfield	680	650
Newark	430	450
North East Derbyshire	550	530
North West Leicestershire	440	410
Northampton North	430	450
Northampton South	470	480
Nottingham East	590	630
Nottingham North	770	790
Nottingham South	540	490
Rushcliffe	370	350
Rutland and Melton	260	280
Sherwood	600	610
Sleaford and North Hykeham	510	490
South Derbyshire	560	630
South Holland and The Deepings	480	410
Wellingborough	450	470
West Derbyshire	370	350

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
4. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Discrimination: Age

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department has taken to combat ageism in the workplace; how many legal claims have been made against employers relating to ageism in the last five years, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* sector; and if he will make a statement. [160869]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

The Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 (SI 2006/1031) came into force on 1 October 2006. These regulations outlaw unjustified age discrimination in employment and vocational training. Provisions relating to occupational pensions came into force on 1 December 2006. The regulations give individuals important new rights, extend existing rights and speed up removal of traditional barriers. Figures on the number of legal claims made against employers relating to ageism in the last five years are not currently available as the regulations have only been in force since 1 October 2006. These will be provided by the ETS in its annual report. ETS does not routinely collect information on the age and sector of claimants, but BERR does carry out periodic surveys of employment tribunal findings. The last was carried out in 2003 (DTI/Pub 7531/0.9k/08/04/AR. URN 04/1071). The next survey is due to be carried out in 2008 and will include among other things information on the age and sector of claimants.

Employee Assistance Programme

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance he has issued to employers on financial arrangements for employee assistance programmes; what recent steps he has taken to promote the programme to employers; and what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on employee assistance programmes. [151249]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 23 July 2007]:* No discussions have taken place with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on employee assistance programmes and the Government have not published guidance to employers on financial arrangements for employee assistance programmes. No promotional activity has taken place.

Employers' Liability: East Midlands

Mr. Skinner: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of companies in the East Midlands with invalid or insufficient liability insurance. [161447]

Mrs. McGuire: I refer to the answer given to the hon. Member's question dated 18 October 2006 and recorded in Hansard under reference 30 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 11W.

HSE remains unaware of any complaints in the East Midlands concerned with deficiencies in ELCI policies. There have been no prosecutions brought by HSE in the East Midlands under the Employers' Liability (Compulsory Insurance) Act 1969 since the previous answer.

Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will give a breakdown of the number of people in employment in the UK who were *(a)* UK citizens, *(b)* citizens of other EU states and *(c)* citizens of non-EU states in each year since 1971. [155993]

Caroline Flint: The following table provides the information requested. Data are only available back as far as spring 1995 broken down by nationality. The figures quoted are based on population estimates published in 2003. A note placed in the Library in response to PQ/07/157946 provides a broader context for changes in employment since 1997.

Quarter spring	*UK nationals*	*non UK, EU nationals*	*non-EU nationals*
1995	24,760,000	440,000	420,000
1996	25,000,000	420,000	430,000
1997	25,310,000	450,000	510,000
1998	25,450,000	500,000	550,000
1999	25,780,000	500,000	530,000
2000	26,050,000	510,000	610,000
2001	26,210,000	540,000	660,000
2002	26,270,000	560,000	730,000
2003	26,470,000	550,000	800,000
2004	26,530,000	590,000	890,000
2005	26,620,000	650,000	900,000
2006	26,500,000	750,000	1,050,000
Quarter 2 2006[1]	26,520,000	750,000	1,070,000
Quarter 2 2007[1]	26,350,000	980,000	1,110,000

[1] Quarter 2 for years 2006 and 2007 have been used in place of summer quarters as after spring 2006 seasonal quarters are no longer available. For periods after 2006 we only have calendar quarters available. Calendar quarters do not have as extensive a time series available. Spring quarters cover months March to May, Quarter 2 covers April to June.

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10,000.
2. These figures are subject to seasonal variation and fluctuate to some extent from quarter to quarter.
3. As these figures are based on a sample survey they are also subject to sampling variability.
4. It should be noted that the nationality question in the LFS is an undercount because:

it excludes those who have not been resident in the UK for six months

it excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent

it excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc.)

it is grossed to population estimates that only include migrants staying for 12 months or more.

Source:

Labour Force Survey, Q2 1997, Q2 2007.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* UK nationals and *(b)* foreign nationals were employed in the UK in (i) 1997 and (ii) the most recent period for which figures are available; what those figures are as a percentage of those in employment in the UK; and what the percentage change in each of these figures was in the relevant period. [158012]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The following table provides the information requested, as well as information on employment rates. As shown, the employment rates of both UK nationals and foreign nationals have improved during the period. The employment rate for UK nationals is higher than that of foreign nationals but the gap is closing.

The total number in employment in the UK in 2007 is shown to be 28.4 million. This figure is based on estimates made in 2003 of the population in 2007 because these are the latest estimates available for use in

respect of particular categories of the labour force such as migrants. The Labour Market Statistics release produced by the Office for National Statistics shows the total employment level to be 29.10 million. This figure is based on estimates made in 2005 of the population in 2007, the latest estimates which can be used for the total employment level.

The increase in the number of foreign nationals in employment in the UK since 1997 is shown to be 1.1 million. This figure differs from the figure of 0.8 million given in PQ/07/154368 for reasons set out in the answer to PQ/07/157946. A note placed in the Library in response to PQ/07/157946 provides a broader context for changes in employment since 1997.

	Employment level (million)			*Percentage of those in employment*		*Employment rate (Percentage)*		
	UK nationals	*Foreign nationals*	*Total*	*UK nationals*	*Foreign nationals*	*UK nationals*	*Foreign nationals*	*Total*
1997	25.4	1.0	26.4	96.3	3.7	73.2	60.6	72.6
2007	26.3	2.1	28.4	92.7	7.3	74.8	67.6	74.2
Net change	1.0	1.1	2.1	-3.7	3.7	1.6	7.0	1.5
Percentage change	3.8	115.0	7.9	-3.8	99.3	2.1	11.6	2.1

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100,000.
2. These figures are subject to seasonal variation and fluctuate to some extent from quarter to quarter.
3. As these figures are based on a sample survey they are also subject to sampling variability.
4. It should be noted that the nationality question in the LFS is an undercount because:-
it excludes those who have not been resident in the UK for six months
it excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent
it excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc.)
it is grossed to population estimates that only include migrants staying for 12 months or more.

Source:
Labour Force Survey, Q2 1997, Q2 2007.

Financial Assistance Scheme

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of how much would be needed on average in each of the next 50 years in *(a)* net present value and *(b)* cash sum terms in order for the Financial Assistance Scheme to pay 90 per cent. of the (i) core and (ii) expected pensions of all those eligible for support; and if he will make a statement. [160738]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The 'core' pension as defined by the financial assistance scheme standardises some pension features for ease of administration and to protect the public purse. For example, payments start from 65 rather than scheme pension age and no indexation is provided. The cash and NPV costs of paying 90 per cent. of core pension are in the following table and sum to approximately £10 billion in cash terms.

We do not have the data to estimate accurately an 'expected' pension. Schemes that qualify for the financial assistance scheme have very different scheme rules, for example, on indexation and revaluation (particularly for pre-1997 pension accruals), and it is not possible to make precise estimates of these differences.

In the Government response to the report by the parliamentary ombudsman on occupational pensions (Trusting in the Pensions Promise, June 2006), we estimated the total cost of meeting expected pensions at between £13 billion and £17 billion in cash terms to reflect this uncertainty.

	90 per cent. core pension	
	Cash (£ million)	*Net present value (£ million)*
2007	14	14
2008	36	34
2009	44	39
2010	44	37
2011	52	41
2012	65	48
2013	78	54
2014	90	59
2015	101	63
2016	112	66
2017	125	69
2018	142	74
2019	155	76
2020	166	77
2021	178	77
2022	193	79
2023	204	79
2024	214	78
2025	227	78
2026	239	77
2027	250	76
2028	262	75
2029	271	73
2030	276	71
2031	282	68
2032	287	65
2033	290	62
2034	290	59
2035	290	55
2036	287	51
2037	284	48
2038	280	45
2039	274	42
2040	267	38
2041	259	35
2042	251	32
2043	242	29

	90 per cent. core pension	
	Cash (£ million)	Net present value (£ million)
2044	233	27
2045	223	24
2046	213	22
2047	203	20
2048	193	18
2049	183	16
2050	172	14
2051	162	13
2052	152	11
2053	142	10
2054	132	9
2055	122	8
2056	112	7
2057	103	6

Notes:
1. All figures are displayed in £ million, rounded to the nearest £1 million.
2. Net present value is calculated according to HM Treasury Guidance.

Housing: Carbon Monoxide

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Government have taken to raise awareness of the dangers of carbon monoxide poisoning in private student accommodation. [160204]

Mrs. McGuire: The Government last week gave full support to "CO Awareness week" that was designed to raise public appreciation of the dangers of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning.

A ministerial group on gas safety this month received details from the gas and allied industries about plans this winter to publicise widely the dangers of CO poisoning. The role of the ministerial group was announced in June this year.

Looking ahead, the Government have announced a major reform of the gas installer registration scheme, to include a new requirement on the appointed provider to promote new initiatives on raising public awareness of gas safety risks, including in student rented accommodation.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many adults of working age were claiming incapacity benefits in *(a)* each Welsh unitary authority, *(b)* each English region, *(c)* Wales, *(d)* Scotland and *(e)* Northern Ireland (i) in 1997, (ii) in 2001, (iii) in 2005 and (iv) at the latest date for which figures are available. [160234]

Mrs. McGuire: Information about Northern Ireland is a matter for my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. The available information is in the table.

Working age claimants of incapacity benefits by Welsh local authority

	February			
	1997	2001	2005	2007
Isle of Anglesey	4,400	4,400	4,190	3,870
Gwynedd	6,800	6,410	6,060	5,860
Conwy	6,500	6,690	6,490	6,250
Denbighshire	6,500	6,180	6,080	5,850
Flintshire	8,300	8,040	7,410	7,010
Wrexham	10,200	8,600	8,070	7,740
Powys	6,500	6,080	5,910	5,630
Ceredigion	3,900	4,280	4,130	3,850
Pembrokeshire	8,200	7,380	7,140	6,640
Carmarthenshire	15,900	15,400	14,280	13,300
Swansea	20,800	18,330	17,280	16,090
Neath Port Talbot	16,800	15,060	13,950	12,940
Bridgend	12,500	11,640	10,950	10,620
The Vale of Glamorgan	6,500	6,240	6,160	5,910
Cardiff	18,500	18,700	18,390	17,870
Rhondda, Cynon, Taff	25,600	25,750	23,360	22,000
Merthyr Tydfil	8,800	7,480	6,660	6,070
Caerphilly	19,400	17,560	16,640	15,680
Blaenau Gwent	9,800	8,110	7,750	7,250
Torfaen	8,700	7,480	6,870	6,560
Monmouthshire	3,700	3,800	3,750	3,590
Newport	9,400	9,090	8,670	8,340

Notes:
1. Five per cent. figures have been uprated in line with 100 per cent. totals.
2. 100 per cent. caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Five per cent. caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
4. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
5. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
6. Incapacity benefits are incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study and 5 per cent. sample.

Working age claimants of incapacity benefits by Government office region

	February			
	1997	2001	2005	2007
North East	179,500	185,920	177,460	164,300
North West	448,100	446,960	431,120	408,240
Yorkshire and the Humber	237,800	247,210	249,020	236,850
East Midlands	160,200	181,870	182,420	178,630
West Midlands	228,800	247,920	249,180	240,030
East of England	153,200	167,190	177,480	176,660
London	270,800	298,190	315,570	310,580
South East	208,200	224,160	238,360	237,260
South West	160,500	182,310	191,950	194,520
Wales	217,900	222,730	210,170	198,950
Scotland	326,400	335,030	322,740	304,080

Notes:
1. Five per cent. figures for 1997 have been uprated in line with 100 per cent. totals.
2. Claimants include credits only cases.
3. Figures refer to working age claimants of IB/SDA.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample, 1997. DWP Information Directorate, Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data 2001, 2005, 2007.

Incapacity Benefit: Eastern Region

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* East of England and *(b)* Suffolk had been claiming incapacity benefit for more than five years in each year since 1997. [161184]

Mrs. McGuire: The available information is in the following table.

Number of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants with a duration of five years or more

Quarter ending February:	*East of England*	*Suffolk*
2001	74,530	9,310
2002	80,240	9,990
2003	85,490	10,550
2004	88,960	10,830
2005	91,550	11,160
2006	93,720	11,230
2007	95,320	11,370

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Figures for claimants with a duration of claim of five years or over are not available prior to April 2000 as incapacity benefit was not introduced until April 1995.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data.

Maintenance: Children

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many absent parents in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Angus constituency are being dealt with by the Child Support Agency under the old rules; [158434]

(2) how many absent parents in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Angus constituency have been transferred from the old to the new system of assessment by the Child Support Agency in each year since its introduction; and how many of these transfers were triggered by a new case involving the individual; [158435]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of the number of cases being dealt with by the Child Support Agency in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* Angus constituency under the old system will be current when the new organisation's rules are introduced. [158436]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty, dated 29 October 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many absent parents in (a) Scotland and (b) Angus constituency are being dealt with by the Child Support Agency under the old rules. [158434] and

How many absent parents in (a) Scotland and (b) Angus constituency have been transferred from the old to the new system of assessment by the Child Support Agency in each year since its introduction; and how many of these transfers were triggered by a new case involving the individual. [158435] and

What estimate his Department has made of the number of cases being dealt with by the Child Support Agency in (a) Scotland and (b) Angus constituency under the old system will be current when the new organisation's rules are introduced. [158436]

At the end of September 2007, the Child Support Agency had 67,900 cases assessed under old rules where the non-resident parent lived in Scotland and in 1,400 of these cases, the non-resident parent lived in the Angus constituency. These figures cover all cases, including those with a positive assessment as well as those currently with a nil maintenance liability. The available information relates to cases only, a non-resident parent may have more than one case.

The number of cases transferred from the old to the new system of assessment is provided in the attached table. When a new child support application is made, the case may have one or more links, through the parent with care or non-resident parent or their partners, to existing cases. If a link is established to one or more cases on the old computer system, then these cases will be transferred to the new computer system, along with any further cases that are linked to them.

It is expected the number of old scheme cases will reduce from around 740,000 to around 300,000 before cases move into the new statutory maintenance service expected to start in 2010-11. The reason for this is predominantly the age and nature of these cases. It is also expected that a number of clients will wish to leave the statutory maintenance service and make their own arrangements following the removal of compulsion. Separate estimates have not been made for Scotland or the Angus constituency.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Number of converted cases in (a) Scotland and (b) Angus constituency from April 2003 to September 2007

	Number of converted cases	
	Scotland	*Angus*
April 2003 to March 2004	540	20
April 2004 to March 2005	820	20
April 2005 to March 2006	1,420	30
April 2006 to March 2007	1,890	40
April 2007 to September 2007	680	20

Notes:
1. The latest available data is at September 2007.
2. Volumes are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. A small number of cases are excluded from these figures as the non-resident parent's postcode is not recorded and therefore cannot be allocated to a parliamentary constituency. This accounts for under 0.5 per cent. of cases.

Members: Correspondence

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the Parliamentary Business Unit of the Falkirk Child Support Agency to reply to the hon. Member of Edinburgh, West's letter of 22 August on his constituent Mr. Keith Millar. [160617]

Mr. Plaskitt: The administration of the Child Support Agency is the matter for the Chief Executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Duncan Gilchrist, dated 29 October 2007:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for work and Pensions when he expects the Parliamentary Business Unit of the Falkirk Child Support Agency to reply to the hon. Member of Edinburgh, West's letter of 22 August on his constituent Mr. Keith Millar. [160617]

As details about individual cases are confidential, I have written to you separately about this case.

National Insurance Contributions

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* women aged 60 and over and *(b)* men aged 65 and over will have accrued 30 years or less national insurance contributions before April 2010. [160392]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The latest information available indicates that at the end of the financial year 2003-04 there were almost 4.5 million women and around 150,000 men between state pension age and age 80 who had accrued 30 or fewer qualifying years for basic state pension.

However, individuals with 30 or fewer qualifying years can still qualify for a full basic state pension under the current arrangements.

Entitlement to a basic state pension depends on a number of factors including the number of qualifying years accrued, home responsibilities protection and the spouse's contribution record.

Notes:

1. Figures refer to people who are estimated to be resident in the UK in 2003-04.

2. Detailed information is not available for people aged 80 and over due to archiving of records from the National Insurance Recording System.

Source: Lifetime Labour Market Database 2, 2003-04

New Deal for Young People: Shepway

Mr. Howard: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of participants in the new deal for young people in the Shepway district were repeat participants in the last year for which figures are available. [156612]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 17 October 2007]:* New deal for young people has helped 1,060 people into work in the Shepway district since it started in January 1998. In the period March 2006 to February 2007[1] 40 per cent. of those on the programme in the Shepway district were repeat participants.

[1] Latest available data.

New Deal Schemes

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of participants in each of the New Deal programmes returned to benefits within *(a)* three months, *(b)* six months, *(c)* 12 months and *(d)* two years of leaving the programme in the latest period for which figures are available. [159622]

Caroline Flint: People who have been on the New Deal programme who subsequently return to benefits may be in receipt of out of work or inactive benefits and may not, due to changes in personal circumstances, necessarily return to the benefit they were claiming before they participated in New Deal.

The available information is in the following table.

Percentage of New Deal leavers who returned to benefits within 3, 6, 12 months and two years of leaving the programme

	3 months	*6 months*	*12 months*	*24 months*
New Deal for Young People	9	29	50	66
New Deal 25 plus	8	20	36	56
New Deal for Lone Parents	5	11	19	31
New Deal 50 plus	11	20	32	44
New Deal for Disabled People	7	13	21	31
New Deal for Partners	5	11	20	31

Notes:

1. Latest data are to February 2007, therefore, allowing for a 24 month gap, only New Deal leavers to February 2005 are included in the 24 month column; allowing for a 12 month gap, only New Deal leavers to February 2006 are included in the 12 month column; allowing for a six month gap, only New Deal leavers to August 2006 are included in the six month column and, allowing for a three month gap, only New Deal leavers to November 2006 are included in the three month column.
2. People claiming within three months will also be included as claiming within six, 12, and 24 months. People claiming within six months will also be included as claiming within 12 and 24 months. People claiming within 12 months will also be included as claiming within 24 months.
3. The benefits included are: incapacity benefits; invalid care allowance; income support; jobseeker's allowance; severe disablement allowance, and widows'/bereavement benefits.
4. A benefit claim has only been included if it is a new claim after leaving New Deal. People can leave New Deal and continue a benefit claim; these people are not included as returning to benefit.

Source:
Information Directorate, DWP.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of participants in each of the New Deal programmes returned to out of work benefits, including those who continued to claim an out of work benefit whilst participating in the New Deal, in each year since 1997. [159623]

Caroline Flint: The available information is in the following table.

Percentage of new deal participants who returned to out of work benefits in each year from 1998

	New deal for young people	*New deal 25 plus*	*New deal for lone parents*	*New deal 50 plus*	*New deal for disabled people*	*New deal for partners*
1998	79	81	76	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
1999	83	90	79	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2000	83	90	77	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2001	83	87	78	[1]—	85	[1]—
2002	81	82	71	[1]—	72	[1]—
2003	77	81	71	[1]—	69	[1]—
2004	72	75	69	70	59	35
2005	65	72	63	67	54	34
2006	50	66	57	66	55	28

[1] Not applicable.

Notes:

1. Data refer to the year in which individuals left new deal, which may not be the same year in which they subsequently claimed a benefit.
2. Data include people who were claiming a benefit before participating on new deal who continued to claim during participation and after leaving the programme.
3. Benefits included are: Incapacity benefit, income support and jobseeker's allowance.
4. Information for new deal for disabled people are only available from 2001 and from 2004 for new deal 50 plus and new deal for partners.
5. Latest complete year data are for 2006.
6. Programme start dates are: New deal for young people: January 1998; new deal 25 plus: July 1998; new deal for lone parents: October 1998; new deal for partners: April 1999; new deal 50 plus: April 2000; new deal for disabled people: July 2001.

Source:

Information Directorate, DWP.

New Deal Schemes: Gwent

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many participants in the New Deal in Islwyn have been placed on training courses for *(a)* up to one year and *(b)* over one year in the last 12 months. [161119]

Caroline Flint: The information requested is not available.

Occupational Pensions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many occupational pension schemes have fully wound up since 1997; how many are in the process of winding up; and what the membership of such schemes was in each year since 1997. [159616]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following information was provided by the pensions regulator.

(a) The number of schemes in the UK that have wound up for a variety of reasons since 2 April 1997 is 62,814

(b) The number of schemes that have been winding up since 2 April 1997 is 7,830. The total membership of these schemes is 414,211.

Notes:

1. A wound up scheme is one which has notified the pensions regulator that it has completed winding up procedures.

2. A winding up scheme is one which has notified the pensions regulator that it has commenced winding up procedures.

3. The data supplied by the pensions regulator is current as at 3 September 2007. It comes from the merger of data derived from old systems (i.e. before 6 April 2005), and has been enhanced and updated with information received via the new scheme returns—which was introduced as part of the Pensions Act 2004.

4. Total membership includes active, deferred and pensioner members. It is not possible to provide a breakdown of these numbers.

5. Membership data relates to the most recent information provided by the scheme. Membership information is not available for earlier years on a year-by-year basis.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of private sector employers who offered a pension to their employees in each year since 1997 for which data are available. [159617]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 23 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 732W.

Pension Credit

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pension credit applications were not processed within 10 days in each of the last three years. [157188]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is in the following table.

Pension credit applications	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Total claims processed	756,849	427,748	334,501
Not processed within 10 days	123,703	52,665	68,142
Average actual clearance time (days)	10.31	8.79	11.93

Pension Protection Fund

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of pension funds which have collapsed since 1997 are eligible for pensioner compensation under the Pension Protection Fund. [150065]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Pension scheme members may be eligible for compensation from the Pension Protection Fund (PPF) if the sponsoring employer of the pension scheme has an insolvency event after 6 April 2005.

Since 6 April 2005 12 schemes have transferred to the PPF and their pensioner members are receiving payments from the PPF. Other schemes are still being assessed.

Pension Protection Fund: Sickness Benefits

Mr. Doran: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what costings were used to assess the feasibility of providing ill health benefits as part of the core benefits provided by the Pension Protection Fund; and if he will make a statement. [157547]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* The Pension Protection Fund (PPF) is intended to pay compensation based on those benefits generally provided on the winding up of a pension scheme, and so does not incorporate additional benefits beyond basic retirement and survivor's benefits. The Government took a policy decision to focus the PPF compensation on these basic benefits to avoid an excessive burden on the Pension Protection Levy, which is paid by other pension schemes. For that reason, the costs of providing additional benefits such as ill-health early retirement were excluded from consideration at

an early stage and were not costed during policy development for the Pensions Act 2004.

The Department has, however, estimated indicative costs for the PPF introducing early compensation on ill health grounds; these estimates are highly sensitive to the underlying assumptions. If, for example, 5 per cent. of PPF deferred members qualified for ill-health compensation without actuarial reduction, they lived on average until the same age as those retiring in normal health and the average age at which they qualified was 50, the reserves of the PPF in respect of deferred members would have to rise by approximately 2 per cent. The PPF estimate that such an increase would require an increase in the Pension Protection Levy from £675 million by 10 per cent.

Pension Service: Equality

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Pension Service spent on equality schemes in each of the last five years. [157180]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The available information is in the following table:

The Pension Service staff costs

	Amount (£)
2004	22,102
2005	47,391
2006	52,492

Within the last five years the Pension Service has produced, and reviewed, equality schemes in 2005 and 2006. Staff costs to the Pension Service include work carried out in 2004 to produce the 2005 scheme.

The publication costs to the Pension Service scheme were incorporated into the overall DWP publication costs for the overarching DWP Equality Scheme.

Pension Service: Finance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Pension Service paid in bank charges in each of the last five years. [157193]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The bank charges for the Pension Service for the last two years are as follows.

	£
2005-06	1,002,255.48
2006-07	1,144,317.98

Source:
Central shared accounting services

Based upon an average customer base of between 11.5 million and 12 million over the period, the average cost per customer is about nine pence per annum.

Prior to 2005-06 accurate and consistent information on bank charges is not available at agency level.

Pension Service: Hotels

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Pension Service spent on hotel accommodation in each of the last five years. [157172]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The available information is in the following table:

The Pension Service Hotel Accommodation Expenditure[1]

	£
2005	1,117,722
2006	1,309,815

[1] The Department's Business Travel section records contracted hotel accommodation expenditure. Information is available only from 2005. A small amount of hotel accommodation is booked locally and the expense accounted by the Department's Resource Management System. The information from the Resource Management System is not available at agency level and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Pension Service: ICT

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Pension Service spent on customer relationship management software in each of the last five years. [157181]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The amounts spent on the purchase of customer relationship management software and its maintenance by the Pension Service are shown in the following table.

	Amount (£)
2003-04	396,708
2004-05	41,207
2005-06	21,630
2006-07	788,084

Source:
Invoices charged to Pensions Transformation Programme Cost Centre.

In June 2006, the Pension Service purchased additional software to support the agency's transformation programme through to 2008 and this is reflected in the 2006-07 costs.

Pension Service: Interpreters

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Pension Service spent on interpreters in each of the last 10 years. [157197]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Interpreter services are managed centrally by the Department's Commercial Directorate, therefore this information is not available for the Pension Service as costs are not captured at individual agency or business unit level.

Pension Service: Marketing

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Pension Service spent on branding in each of the last five years. [157178]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The branding of the Pension Service has not changed since the agency was launched in April 2002. The Pension Service has had no expenditure on branding in the last five years.

Pension Service: Sick Leave

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in the Pension Service have been on long-term sick leave in each of the last 10 years. [157192]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The first full year for which the Pension Service has staffing data, following its inception in 2002, is for 2003-04.

	Average[1] monthly number of employees having an absence 28 days[2] or more
2003-04	662
2004-05	596
2005-06	344
2006-07	276

[1] The Pension Service records of staff absence cannot state the number of people in each year that had 28 days or more absence as data is not recorded in that way. Data record the number of people in each month that reach 28 days or more. As some people appear in one or more consecutive months, it is not possible to add the monthly figures in order to get a yearly total. Therefore the monthly figure has been averaged for each year

[2] DWP defines long-term absence as someone who has been off sick for 28 calendar days or more.

Source:

Internal DWP records based on the Department's payroll system.

Pension Service: Telephone Services

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has any plans to charge customers for telephoning the Pension Service. [157179]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Currently, the Pension Service can be contacted on a range of numbers with the following call charging arrangements 0845, 0800, 0191 or 0113:

0845 numbers are charged at local call rates and the current guidance by the Committee of Advertising Practice Code applies to the cost of these calls. Current guidance is that calls provided by BT will be charged at up to four pence per minute at all times. A call set up fee of three pence per call applies to calls from residential lines. Mobile and other providers' charges may vary.

0800 99 1234 Pension Credit Application Line is a free phone number and there is no charge for calls to this number from a BT Landline. Mobile and other providers' charges may vary.

0191 218 7777 (International Pension Centre—for Overseas Customers). Calls to this number are charged at the standard rate for the territory from which the customer is calling.

0113 numbers in existence relate to:

MP Helpline

Comments on Customer Charter

Calls made to each of these numbers from within the 0113 area are charged at Local Call Rates; calls made to each of these numbers from outside the area are charged at National Call Rates.

The Pension Service always offers to call customers back if the customer expresses any concerns about the costs being incurred.

All Public Service providers are currently assessing the impact of migrating call numbers to the new '03' range. The Pension Service will also review the existing range of telephone numbers and consider simplifying access to our services for our customers. As part of that review, cost implications and the merits of free-phone numbers over local call rates will be considered.

Pension Service: Translation Services

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Pension Service spent on translation costs in each of the last 10 years. [157182]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Translation services are managed centrally by the Department's Communications Directorate. This information is not available for the Pension Service as costs are not captured at individual agency or business unit level.

Pension Service: Travel

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much the Pension Service spent on foreign travel in each of the last five years. [157171]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Costs are not captured at a sufficiently detailed level in the Department's Resource Management System for expenditure by the Pension Service on foreign travel to be separately identifiable.

The only source for this information is from the Department's Business Travel section, but this is likely to be incomplete—missing some hotel accommodation which is booked locally—and is only available since June 2006. The Pension Service spend on foreign travel report from this source is £80,381 between June 2006 and August 2007.

Pensioners: Income

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what data his Department holds on changes in disposable income among pensioners in the last five years, broken down by *(a)* age and *(b)* region; and if he will make a statement. [160863]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The DWP collects information on pensioners' incomes through the annual Family Resources Survey. Analysis of this information by age and region, both before and after housing costs, is included in the DWP publication series entitled "The Pensioners' Incomes Series". Copies of the latest and previous publications can be found in the Library.

Pensioners: Poverty

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his Department's latest estimate is of the number of pensioners in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* England living below the poverty line; and if he will make a statement; [161807]

(2) how many and what proportion of pensioners in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Wales, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* England were living below the poverty line in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [161809]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The available information is in the following tables.

Number of pensioners living in households below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income after housing costs

	UK/GB[1]		Wales	Scotland	England
1996-97	2,890,000	1994-95 to 1996-97	140,000	270,000	2,400,000
1997-98	2,900,000	1995-96 to 1997-98	150,000	270,000	2,440,000
1998-99	2,940,000	1996-97 to 1998-99	150,000	260,000	2,490,000
1999-2000	2,840,000	1997-98 to 1999-2000	140,000	240,000	2,460,000
2000-01	2,680,000	1998-99 to 2000-01	130,000	230,000	2,380,000
2001-02	2,660,000	1999-2000 to 2001-02	140,000	230,000	2,300,000
2002-03	2,530,000	2000-01 to 2002-03	130,000	220,000	2,220,000
2003-04	2,180,000	2001-02 to 2003-04	120,000	210,000	2,070,000
2004-05	1,880,000	2002-03 to 2004-05	110,000	190,000	1,850,000
2005-06	1,840,000	2003-04 to 2005-06	110,000	160,000	1,640,000

Percentage of pensioners living in households below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income after housing costs

	UK/GB[1]		Wales	Scotland	England
1996-97	29	1994-95 to 1996-97	26	31	28
1997-98	29	1995-96 to 1997-98	27	31	29
1998-99	29	1996-97 to 1998-99	26	29	29
1999-00	28	1997-98 to 1999-2000	26	28	29
2000-01	26	1998-99 to 2000-01	24	27	28
2001-02	26	1999-2000 to 2001-02	24	26	27
2002-03	24	2000-01 to 2002-03	23	25	26
2003-04	21	2001-02 to 2003-04	22	23	24
2004-05	18	2002-03 to 2004-05	20	21	21
2005-06	17	2003-04 to 2005-06	20	18	18

[1] Figures are for the UK from 1998-99 onwards, with estimates for Northern Ireland imputed for the years 1998-99 through 2001-02. Earlier years are for GB only.

Notes:

1. There is no single accepted poverty line. The measure of low income for pensioners we have adopted uses a threshold of 60 per cent of contemporary median income after housing costs.
2. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10 thousand, and percentages to the nearest percentage point.
3. Numbers for Wales, Scotland and England are presented using a three-year moving average, as single-year estimates do not provide a robust guide to year-on-year changes.

Source:

Family Resources Survey

We have made good progress in tackling pensioner poverty. Based on income measured after housing costs the number of pensioners in Great Britain living in relative poverty has fallen by more than one million between 1996-97 and 2005-06.

We will continue to build on this good progress. A new Public Service Agreement 'Tackle poverty and promote greater independence in later life', published as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review in October 2007 clearly demonstrates that tackling the problems of low income amongst older people remains a key Government priority.

Pensioners: Social Security Benefits

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners have taken up their entitlement under the *(a)* pensions credit scheme, *(b)* disability allowance and *(c)* attendance allowance in the last five years, broken down by (i) age and (ii) region; and if he will make a statement. [160864]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Due to the amount of detail the information has been sent to the hon. Member and a copy will be placed in the Library.

Pensions

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of adults who were not members of any pension scheme in each year since 1997. [150040]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following table below gives a time series breakdown of working age adults who were not members of any active private pension scheme.

	Number of working age adults who were not members of any private pension scheme (million)
1999-2000	17.3
2000-01	17.5
2001-02	17.6
2002-03	17.9
2003-04	18.3
2004-05	18.7
2005-06	19.0

Notes:

1. All figures are estimates and are taken from the Family Resources Survey (FRS). 2005-06 is the latest year for which data are available.
2. Results are presented for 1999-2000 onwards. Data in earlier years are not comparable because of the implementation of improvements in government surveys relating to pensions from that date.
3. Private pension refers to either an occupational, personal or stakeholder pension scheme.
4. Working age is ages 20-59 for women and 20-64 for men.

Source:

Family Resources Survey, Great Britain, 1999-2000 to 2005-06

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many state pension claims took more than 20 days to process in each of the last 10 years. [157190]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The requested information is unavailable.

The standard measure for state pension claims is to clear 95 per cent. of claims in 60 days. The Pension Service computer system therefore measures against this target.

60 days takes into consideration the fact that customers need to supply a considerable amount of evidence (including marriage and birth certificates) after the initial date of claim. It also takes into account the fact that customers can make an application to state pension up to four months prior to retirement.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to his answer of 30 March 2006, *Official Report*, column 1205W, on pensions, what his estimate is of the number of people who have lost their pensions due to the insolvency of the sponsoring employer or where the employer no longer exists; and what progress has been made towards providing a breakdown of this figure by *(a)* constituency and *(b)* region. [159613]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We estimate that, between 1997 and 2005, around 125,000 people lost some part of their pension due to the insolvency of the sponsoring employer or where the employer no longer exists.

Approximately 117,000 non-pensioner members of these schemes are potentially eligible for assistance from the financial assistance scheme (FAS); these members are in around 690 FAS qualifying schemes.

Because in most cases the employer no longer exists, the address provided to Financial Assistance Scheme Operational Unit (FASOU) is that of the administrator or receiver which often bears no geographical relevance to where the company was located. Providing an accurate picture of those who have lost their pensions by constituency and region is therefore not possible.

FASOU only has addresses for members about whom schemes have submitted data. We are not, therefore, able to give a meaningful breakdown by location for all affected members.

Pensions: Carers

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect of rules on state pension entitlement on people who stay at home to care for *(a)* children and *(b)* elderly relatives; and if he will make a statement. [161021]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: People who are bringing up children or caring for severely disabled people can protect their state pension through measures such as Home Responsibilities Protection and carer's allowance credits.

As a result of the provisions in the 2007 Pensions Act, including the treatment of Home Responsibilities Protection and the more generous arrangements for the award of credits to people with caring responsibilities, the proportion of women in Great Britain reaching state pension age with entitlement to a full basic state pension is estimated to rise from around 35 per cent. now to around three-quarters in 2010-11.

Pensions: Financial Assistance Scheme

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made *(a)* on an actuarial basis of (i) the average life expectancy of the pensioners who are eligible for payments under the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) and (ii) the number of eligible pensioners who will not receive any compensation due to short life expectancy, *(b)* of the average amount of funding required to compensate each recipient of payments from the scheme and *(c)* of the amount of time that it will take to provide full compensation to all pensioners eligible for the FAS. [152562]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) model uses a rate of 85 per cent. of the UK population mortality rates as projected in the most recent 2006-based national population projections produced by the Office for National Statistics. This assumes that on average eligible male and female members of a FAS qualifying scheme attaining age 65 in 2010 will live for a further 22.6 years and 24.9 years respectively, rising by 2025 to a further 24.2 and 26.4 years respectively.

Based on these mortality assumptions 7,050 people who are currently eligible for FAS will die before age 65 and therefore not get assistance. The FAS does however provide assistance to surviving spouses or civil partners of deceased qualifying members of qualifying schemes.

As at 30 September 2007 the numbers of people receiving FAS payments (excluding arrears) within the ranges shown are as follows:

Payment range gross figures (per annum)	*Number of members receiving annual payments*	*Number of members receiving initial payments*[1]	*Total number*
£521 - £1,000	78	575	653
£1,001 - £3,000	135	951	1,086
£3,001 - £5,000	51	387	438
£5,001 - £7,000	17	211	228
£7,001 - £9,000	7	96	103
£9,001 - £11,000	2	27	29
£11,001 - £12,000	1	22	23
	291	2,269	2,560

[1] Whose pension schemes have not yet completed wind-up.

We estimate that between 6,500 and 7,500 members have passed the age of 65 since their scheme entered wind up and are now eligible for FAS assistance.

The youngest scheme members will not be eligible for financial assistance for a number of decades. A member who was 20 years of age when their scheme started to wind-up in 2005 would not qualify for payment of assistance until 2050. Therefore it could take at least 40 years before full assistance starts being paid to all members eligible for FAS.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many members of the Earlys of Witney Pension Scheme had been approached by the Financial Assistance Scheme to offer them compensation before 20 July 2007. [154663]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Following the intervention of the right hon. Member for Witney the trustees of the Earlys of Witney Pension Scheme were contacted by the Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) Operational Unit. Subsequently a DWP official contacted an individual member of the scheme to provide information about the FAS, and issued the standard form to return to the Financial Assistance Scheme Operational Unit. The individual subsequently decided not to pursue a claim for assistance, and I am told this was because he was awaiting an appeal judgment in court.

The FAS OU has since been contacted by two other members of the scheme.

The trustees of the Earlys of Witney Pension Scheme have successfully applied for FAS initial payments, and the unit is working with the trustees to encourage them to provide the necessary member data to allow these payments to be made.

Pensions: Telephone Services

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many calls made to the Pension Service in the East of England *(a)* met an engaged tone, *(b)* were received and *(c)* were handled by an adviser in each year since 1997, broken down by call centre; and what area within the East of England is served by each call centre. [159208]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Prior to 2002 the Benefits Agency was responsible for the delivery of benefits and services for pensioners. From April 2002, this became the sole responsibility of the Pension Service.

The Pension Service started reporting telephony management information from August 2003.

The information has been placed in the Library.

In 2003-04 the Pension Service customer base was split into regions, the then East of England region was served exclusively by Derby, Leicester, Nottingham, Norwich Baltic and Norwich Kingfisher pension centres.

Since 2003-04 the Pension Service has reduced the number of pension centres and work is no longer managed in regions. Telephone calls from the East of England region are now handled by Burnley Pension Centre which also takes customers in the North West. It is not, therefore, possible to report East of England calls separately within the data held by the Pension Service.

Post Office Card Account: Overpayments

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much of the money paid into the wrong Post Office card accounts by his Department has been recovered over the last three years. [156919]

Mr. Plaskitt: Since the Department's Resource Accounts were published in July, my officials have reviewed the basis on which these numbers were calculated.

I can now provide updated figures covering the period up to 2006-07. These show that the amount incorrectly paid into Post Office card accounts was £7.3 million and the amount recovered was £2.4 million. (The figures in the Resource Accounts therefore overstated the amount that had been incorrectly paid and understated the amount that had been recovered.)

To put this into context, the level of incorrect payments represents around 0.01 per cent. of the payments made into Post Office card accounts during the same period.

During this four-year period the level of incorrect payments has reduced significantly, while the proportion of payments recovered has shown a significant increase. This is partly due to improvements by Post Office Ltd. in its own systems and procedures, which enable us to better identify and recover incorrect payments.

Remembrance Day

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidance the Health and Safety Executive has given to local authorities on Remembrance Day events and parades. [158183]

Mrs. McGuire: The Chair of the Health and Safety Commission (HSE's parent body) recently wrote to the Chief Executives of all British local authorities and a number of other organisations, urging them to avoid needless 'health and safety' requirements for planned Remembrance Day events. The letter recognised that the vast majority of authorities are very sensible and sensitive in dealing with such events, but urged that all ensure a consistent approach. I will place a copy of the letter in the House Library.

Remploy: Closures

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the Government's policy is on Remploy factory closures; and if he will make a statement. [157939]

Mrs. McGuire *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* Following the review of Remploy last year by PriceWaterhouseCoopers, we asked the Remploy board to bring forward a five-year restructuring plan both to modernise the business and to support substantially larger numbers of disabled people into work, ensuring that there would be no compulsory redundancies of disabled employees, and that their full terms and conditions—including rights to final salary pensions—would be protected.

Remploy announced their initial proposals on 22 May. On 19 August, the Secretary of State appointed Roger Poole to chair the negotiations over the proposals between Remploy and the trade unions. Although substantial progress was made, these talks concluded with a formal failure to agree.

The Secretary of State has now requested a final report from the Remploy board on the modernisation of the company, no later than 12 November 2007. We recognise that despite substantial progress, significant issues remain unresolved. Nonetheless, these remaining differences can and should be bridged. We continue to believe that a negotiated settlement represents the best outcome for Remploy.

A decision on the future of Remploy will be made by the Secretary of State once a final report from the board is received. Until then, no Government decision will be made concerning Remploy's factories.

Remploy: Factories

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many factories Remploy *(a)* owns and *(b)* leases; and what the ownership status is of each factory. [160036]

Mrs. McGuire: Remploy owns 55 factories and leases 26 factories. The company pays a commercial rent for the 26 leased factories. The remaining factories are owned by Remploy on a freehold basis or ground lease. The Department for Work and Pensions holds a debenture on all Remploy owned property and must agree to the sale of any company property, before the debenture on that property can be released.

The ownership status of each Remploy factory is in the following table.

Factory	*Ownership status*
Aberdare	Ground Lease
Aberdeen	Freehold
Aintree	Freehold
Barking	Ground Lease
Birkenhead	Ground Lease
Birmingham	Ground Lease
Blackburn	Ground Lease
Bolton	Freehold
Brixton	Freehold
Brynamman	Freehold
Burnley	Ground Lease
Chesterfield	Ground Lease
Cleator Moor	Ground Lease
Clydebank	Freehold
Coventry	Freehold
Cowdenbeath	Freehold
Croespenmaen	Freehold
Derby	Ground Lease
Halifax	Freehold
Hartlepool	Ground Lease
Hillington	Freehold
Huddersfield	Ground Lease
Hull	Freehold
Leatherhead	Freehold
Leicester	Ground Lease
Leven	Freehold
Lydney	Freehold
Manchester	Ground Lease
Mansfield	Freehold
Medway	Ground Lease
Merythr Tydfil	Ground Lease
Newcastle Under Lyme	Freehold
Newcastle Upon Tyne	Freehold
Norwich	Freehold
Oldham	Ground Lease
Penzance	Freehold
Plymouth	Ground Lease
Pontefract	Freehold
Poole	Freehold
Porth	Freehold
Portsmouth	Ground Lease
Radcliffe	Freehold
Redruth	Freehold
Southampton	Ground Lease
Southend	Freehold
Springburn	Ground Lease
Stirling	Freehold
Stockton	Freehold
Swansea factory	Freehold
Wigan	Freehold
Woolwich	Ground Lease
Worksop	Freehold
Wrexham	Freehold
York	Ground Lease
Ystradgynlais	Ground Lease
Abertillery	Leasehold
Acton	Leasehold
Ashington	Leasehold
Barnsley	Leasehold
Barrow	Leasehold
Bradford	Leasehold
Bridgend	Leasehold
Bristol	Leasehold
Dundee	Leasehold
Edinburgh	Leasehold
Gateshead	Leasehold
New Holloway	Leasehold
Jarrow	Leasehold
Lanarkshire	Leasehold
Leeds	Leasehold
Neath	Leasehold
Newcastle/N Staffs	Leasehold
Pinxton	Leasehold
Preston	Leasehold
Sheffield	Leasehold
Southampton 2	Leasehold
Spennymoor	Leasehold
St. Helens	Leasehold
Stockport	Leasehold
Sunderland	Leasehold
Treforest	Leasehold

Social Fund

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much debt is outstanding to the Social Fund in respect of beneficiaries who no longer receive benefits from which deductions can be made; and what progress is being made in recovery of these outstanding sums. [154833]

Mr. Plaskitt: At July 2007, £264.3 million was outstanding in social fund loans to beneficiaries no longer in receipt of benefits from which deductions can be made. This figure is, generally speaking, obviously inversely proportional to success rates in moving customers off benefits and into work

To ensure that the recovery of theses monies continues once benefit deduction is no longer possible, these cases are in the process of being transferred to the Department's Shared Services Debt Management organisation. This transfer will be completed by the end of March 2008. This will ensure that Debt Management's specialist skills and technology can be used to the best effect to recover these loans.

Social Security Benefits

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what central assumptions his Department makes in drawing up its projections for the purpose of estimating future demand for benefits about current *(a)* mean and *(b)* median (i) fertility, (ii) average age at marriage and (iii) marriage rates of each gender. [161836]

Mr. Plaskitt: The Department's expenditure forecasts and projections currently use 2004-based population projections, including projections of fertility, and 2003-based marital status projections, both published by the Government Actuary's Department. There are no explicit assumptions about the average age of marriage, or the distribution of fertility, in these projections.

These will be updated to take account of the 2006-based population projections in the next month.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people are employed by his Department solely for the purpose of detecting and investigating fraudulent benefit claims. [155932]

Mr. Plaskitt: In April 2006 the National Fraud Investigation Service (FIS) was launched to combat fraud through a more focused, sanction-orientated organisation. In addition, from April 2006 we introduced new customer compliance officers to tackle low-level abuse that cannot be taken through the criminal courts.

As at April 2007, there were 2,926 people employed by the Fraud Investigation Service. This is made up from 2,314 working in area fraud, 339 in criminal intelligence, 232 in organised fraud and 41 in technical and support roles. The overall aim of the Department's anti-fraud strategy is to have a benefit system which is secure from first claim to final payment. The implementation of this strategy means than an anti-fraud focus is integral to the work of all staff in the Department.

Social Security: Private Sector

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make a statement on the use of the private and voluntary sectors in welfare delivery. [134427]

Caroline Flint: Private and voluntary organisations are often best placed to help our clients, particularly those with a disability or health condition, by providing the specialist services they need. They have the flexibility to develop new and innovative approaches specifically tailored to their clients.

The private and voluntary sector will continue to have a very important role to play in drawing on the expertise and skills of a wider variety of organisations that can help us to get people off benefit and back into work.

State Retirement Pensions: East Midlands

Mr. Skinner: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in each constituency in the East Midlands received the retirement pension age addition for those aged 80 years or over in the latest period for which figures are available. [161057]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is in the following table:

Parliamentary constituencies	*State pension age addition recipients*
Amber Valley	4,200
Ashfield	4,400
Bassetlaw	3,500
Blaby	4,000
Bolsover	4,300
Boston and Skegness	5,200
Bosworth	5,000
Broxtowe	4,500
Charnwood	4,600
Chesterfield	4,900
Corby	4,000
Daventry	4,100
Derby North	4,500
Derby South	4,000
Erewash	4,900
Gainsborough	4,400
Gedling	4,600
Grantham and Stamford	4,600
Harborough	4,300
High Peak	4,300
Kettering	4,900
Leicester East	3,000
Leicester South	3,100
Leicester West	2,800
Lincoln	4,100
Loughborough	3,500
Louth and Horncastle	5,500
Mansfield	4,300
Newark	4,900
North East Derbyshire	4,400
North West Leicestershire	4400
Northampton North	4,000
Northampton South	4,700
Nottingham East	3,000
Nottingham North	3,900
Nottingham South	3,300
Rushcliffe	5,700
Rutland and Melton	5,200
Sherwood	4,300
Sleaford and North Hykeham	5,500
South Derbyshire	4,600
South Holland and The Deepings	5,400
Wellingborough	4,700
West Derbyshire	5,600

Notes:
1. Data are taken from the 5 per cent. extract of the Pension Service Computer System as at 30 September 2006, and the figures are subject to a degree of sampling variation. They are also adjusted to be consistent with the overall caseload from the Work and Pension Longitudinal Study.
2. The figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
3. The boundaries of parliamentary constituencies do not correspond exactly to Government Office Regions (GOR). As a result, small areas of some parliamentary constituencies listed in the table lie outside the geographical boundaries of East Midlands GOR.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate 5 per cent. sample, rated to caseload in Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

State Retirement Pensions: Overseas Residence

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many International Pension Centre clients are foreign nationals living in their country of birth. [157842]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is not available in the format requested.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many males will lose their eligibility for winter fuel payments on account of the linked rise in the state pension age for women in each year from 2010 to 2020; what the expected minimum age for resultant saving is to public funds; and what minimum age for eligibility for winter fuel payouts to persons of both sexes will be set after state pension age is harmonised. [155748]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The minimum age at which both men and women will be able to receive a winter fuel payment will rise incrementally to 65, between 2010 and 2020, as women's state pension age rises to align with state pension age for men.

No-one will lose eligibility for a winter fuel payment as a result of these changes. Everyone who has become eligible for a winter fuel payment will continue to receive it every winter as a substantial contribution towards the cost of their winter fuel bill.

Some men will, however, become eligible for a winter fuel payment later than they would have done had women's state pension age not risen. The information in the following table shows the number of males in a given tax year who would have been eligible for a winter fuel payment if the state pension age for women had remained unchanged and the estimated resultant savings.

Pensions reform as a whole is designed to improve outcomes for pensioners in the future—as a result the amount we spend on pensioners will increase substantially. In 2010 expenditure on pensions is forecast to be 5.1 per cent of gross domestic product. This will increase to 5.2 per cent. by 2020.

Number of males in a given tax year who would have been eligible for a winter fuel payment if the state pension age for women had remained unchanged

	Number of males affected in a given tax year	*Estimated resultant saving to public funds (2006-07 prices) (£ million)*
2010-11	60,000	10
2011-12	180,000	30
2012-13	320,000	50
2013-14	460,000	70
2014-15	610,000	90
2015-16	750,000	100
2016-17	900,000	120
2017-18	1,070,000	130
2018-19	1,230,000	150
2019-20	1,410,000	160
2020-21	1,510,000	170

Note:
The caseloads in a given year reflect the number of men who would have had eligibility had the qualifying age for winter fuel payment remained unchanged.
Source:
Estimates based on DWP forecasts and September 2006 RPWB administrative dataset, five per cent sample.

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the average percentage of pensioners' energy bills that was met by the winter fuel allowance in 2006; and what the estimated percentage is for 2007. [160359]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information is in the following table. The winter fuel allowance is intended to assist pensioners in winter to cover additional heating bills. It is not intended to cover the whole cost. Winter fuel payments have increased from £20 in 1997-98 to the current value of £200 for households with someone aged 60 to 79 years of age, and £300 for households with someone aged 80 or over.

	2005-06	*2006-07*
Average expenditure on fuel (£)	651	690
Average winter fuel payment (£)	233	234
Percentage of total fuel bill met by winter fuel payment	36	34

Notes:
1. Figures for 2005-06 are based on the outturn; figures for 2006-07 are estimates based on the most recent available data and projections. Estimates for 2007-08 are not included due to the unavailability of fuel price data for the entire year.
2. Average household fuel expenditure is taken from the ONS expenditure and food survey (family spending survey) 2005-06. It is based on households where the primary respondent is aged 65 years or older.
3. Average winter fuel payments have been calculated by dividing expenditure on winter fuel payments by the number of households in receipt of winter fuel payments.

Between 1996-97 and 2005-06 pensioners' incomes increased by 29 per cent. in real terms, compared with a 15 per cent. real terms increase in utility bills between 1996-97 and 2006. It is important to note that while pensioner incomes tend to increase consistently, with two per cent. growth between 2004-05 and 2005-06 building on the growth in earlier years, utility bills tend to fluctuate.

Winter Fuel Payments: Bolsover

Mr. Skinner: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners received the winter fuel allowance in Bolsover constituency in *(a)* 2002, *(b)* 2003, *(c)* 2004, *(d)* 2005 and *(e)* 2006. [161445]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information relating to winter fuel payments from winter 2001-02 is in the following table.

Bolsover constituency

	Payments made
2001-02	18,600
2002-03	18,950
2003-04	19,230
2004-05	19,180
2005-06	19,380
2006-07	19,690

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.
Source:
Information directorate 100 per cent data.

Winter Fuel Payments: Ribble Valley

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims for winter fuel payments were made in Ribble Valley constituency in each year since their introduction. [161148]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information relating to winter fuel payments for the winters of 1997-98 and 1998-99 is not available. The information from winter 1999-2000 is in the following table.

Ribble Valley Constituency

	Payments made
1999-2000	17,710
2000-01	19,960
2001-02	20,380
2002-03	20,990
2003-04	21,580
2004-05	21,910
2005-06	22,290
2006-07	22,880

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.
Source:
Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

Worklessness

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the oral answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 3, to the right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr. Field) on worklessness, how many of the 800,000 people referred to were from EU member states; and if he will break down the number of such workers by nationality. [157708]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The following table gives the net change in the number of non-UK, EU nationals in employment in 2007 compared with 1997. The total net increase is 524,000 rounded to the nearest thousand. The totals for the EU as a whole are not equal to the sum of the numbers shown for individual countries because for some EU member states the sample sizes are too small to make an estimate of those in employment at an individual country level.

This figure compares with a net increase of foreign nationals in employment in this period of 1.1 million. As stated in PQ/07/157946, the 1.1 million figure is derived from the 0.8 million figure being revised to 1.1 million and the addition of 0.05 million foreign nationals in employment in 2007 who were in the United Kingdom in 1997 but not then in employment.

A note placed in the Library in response to PQ/07/157946 provides a broader context for changes in employment since 1997.

			Number in employment
Nationality	*1997*	*2007*	*net change*
Austria	4,000	5,000	1,000
Belgium	3,000	13,000	11,000
Bulgaria	[1]—	11,000	[1]—
Cyprus	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Czech Republic	6,000	21,000	16,000
Denmark	7,000	9,000	2,000
Estonia	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Finland	2,000	3,000	1,000
France	35,000	77,000	42,000
Germany	30,000	48,000	17,000
Greece	6,000	16,000	11,000
Hungary	[1]—	14,000	[1]—
Ireland	234,000	192,000	- 42,000
Italy	43,000	49,000	6,000
Latvia	[1]—	8,000	[1]—
Lithuania	[1]—	37,000	[1]—
Luxembourg	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Malta	5,000	3,000	- 2,000
Netherlands	18,000	25,000	7,000
Poland	6,000	292,000	286,000
Portugal	14,000	50,000	37,000
Romania	[1]—	14,000	[1]—
Slovakia	[1]—	34,000	[1]—
Slovenia	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Spain	24,000	36,000	11,000
Sweden	11,000	15,000	4,000
All	453,000	977,000	524,000

[1] Where sample size is too small to report a robust estimate, we are unable to report a net change where the estimate in at least one period is not robust.
Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 1,000.
2. These figures are subject to seasonal variation and fluctuate to some extent from quarter to quarter.
3. As these figures are based on a sample survey they are also subject to sampling variability.
4. It should be noted that the nationality question in the LFS is an undercount because:
it excludes those who have not been resident in the UK for six months
it excludes students in halls who do not have a UK resident parent
it excludes people in most other types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites, etc.)
it is grossed to population estimates that only include migrants staying for 12 months or more
Source:
Labour Force Survey, Q2 1997, Q2 2007.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 3, on worklessness, if he will place in the Library the information and sources that account for his statement that 800,000 new jobs have been taken by those who have come from outside Britain. [157946]

Caroline Flint *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The figure of 0.8 million was a calculation of the number of foreign nationals estimated to have arrived in the United Kingdom since 1997 and be in employment (1.4 million) less the number of foreign nationals in employment in 1997 who are no longer in employment (or no longer foreign nationals) (0.6 million). Using a revised methodology we now estimate the net difference to be 1.1 million rather than 0.8 million.

In addition, there are an estimated 0.05 million foreign nationals in employment in 2007 who were in the United Kingdom in 1997 but not in employment. Adding this figure to the 1.1 million gives a total net increase of foreign nationals in employment of 1.1 million rounded to the nearest 100,000, as set out in the answer to PQ/07/158012.

A note placed in the Library provides an explanation of both the methodology and the sources used, as well as a broader context for changes in employment since 1997.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 29 October 2007

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council: Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many press officers are employed by the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council. [154480]

Ian Pearson: The Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council (EPSRC) employs one full-time press officer and one full-time assistant press officer.

Further Education: Disabled

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what average fees were charged to individuals claiming incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance or disability living allowance for each course taken by them at further education colleges in each year since 1997. [156959]

Bill Rammell: Adult learners on low incomes who are in receipt of income based benefits continue to be entitled to full fee remission for further education, along with those undertaking basic skills courses, first full level 2 qualifications and 19 to 25-year-olds undertaking first full level 3 qualifications. Individuals claiming IB, SDA or DLA falling within these categories are not charged a fee for further education. On the basis of information provided by the LSC, the following table sets out the average fee contribution charged to all adult learners not entitled to free further education provision, whether or not they were claiming IB, SDA or DLA, The figures show the position since 2004. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information for the years between 1997/98 and 2003/04. A copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

	National fee contribution rate (%)	*Average total fee paid for course of 60-89 glh (£)*	*Average total fee paid for course of 120-149 glh (£)*	*Average total fee paid for course of 240-269 glh (£)*	*Average total fee paid for course of 480-509 glh (£)*
2004/05	25	92.34	170.48	236.50	598.45
2005/06	27.5	106.66	196.90	330.90	691.20
2006/07	32.5	130.33	240.61	404.37	844.66
2007/08	37.5	152.81	282.10	474.08	990.28
2008/09	42.5	177.51	327.71	550.72	1,150.38
2009/10	47.5	203.36	375.42	630.90	1,317.86
2010/11	50	219.41	405.05	680.71	1,421.90

Higher Education: Engineering

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of full-time undergraduates studying at universities in the UK is enrolled on courses leading to a degree in engineering. [158488]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is given in the table. Figures for the 2006/07 academic year will be available in January 2008.

Number of full-time undergraduate enrolments by subject area UK higher education institutions—academic year 2005/06

Subject area	*Enrolments*	*Percentage*
Engineering and technology	75,905	6.3
All other subject areas	1,122,910	93.7
Total	1,198,815	100.0

Note:
Figures are based on a HESA Standard Registration Population and have been rounded to the nearest five. Figures cover all UK and overseas domiciles.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Higher Education: Fees and Charges

Mr. Grogan: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what mechanism the Government will use to assess the impact of the introduction of differential fees for higher education degrees. [160428]

Bill Rammell: As we made clear during the passage of the legislation introducing the new fee and student support arrangements, there will be a review in 2009 conducted by a Commission which will work on the basis of evidence from the first three years' operation of the variable fee arrangements. The Commission will report to Parliament.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much the Government spent on higher education, broken down by budget heading in each of the last 15 years; and how much is budgeted for 2007-08. [160173]

Bill Rammell: The following figures provide a breakdown of Government expenditure on higher education for 10 years between 1998-99 and 2007-08.

The figures are taken from the DfES Departmental Annual Report 2007 Table 8.2. We are not able to provide this breakdown before 1998 as the figures were not compiled on a like for like basis.

£ million

	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Higher education[1]	5,956	6,251	5,852	6,136	6,432	6,956	7,112	8,008	8,709	9,434
Of which:										
HEFCE	3,540	4,413	4,273	4,563	4,916	5,325	5,616	6,225	6,543	6,878
Student loans RAB charge[2, 3]	410	604	773	574	458	444	503	575	548	564
Student fee loans RAB charge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	163	349
Student loans management of provision[4]	0	0	0	277	354	475	225	314	466	509
Student support grants	1,877	1,075	647	551	541	542	614	758	847	918
Access funds and bursaries	39	82	87	88	97	98	78	72	64	56
Student support admin	18	36	30	30	46	51	51	49	58	52
Other miscellaneous programmes	72	41	42	53	20	21	25	15	20	108

[1] HE funding for research councils is excluded from the table.
[2] The student loans RAB charge estimates the future cost to government of subsidising and writing off the student loans issued in that year; it does not represent the amount of cash lent to students, which has risen each year since the introduction of student loans.
[3] Planned and actual expenditure on Welsh students has been removed from the Student Loans RAB charge and student support grants to reflect the devolution of student support to the National Assembly for Wales (but cannot be excluded from the management of provision line).
[4] The student loan management of provision line reflects the standard accounting transactions that are made each year to manage the provision for the outstanding loan stock. This includes loan cost of capital, interest added to the loan stock in year, inflation adjustments, unwinding costs, revaluation and the release from provision.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what assessment he has made of the likely effect of withdrawing funding for students to take second degrees on institutions offering part-time courses; and if he will make a statement. [161645]

Bill Rammell: We took this decision as part of the comprehensive spending review in order to target resources on our top priorities and the country's long-term needs. Our policy not only responds to the challenge in the Leitch report to increase the proportion of the work force with higher level skills from under 30 per cent. now to over 40 per cent. by 2020 but is also fairer to both taxpayers and students who have not yet entered higher education. The overall effect of these changes on the income of individual institutions will depend on how successful they are in attracting students who meet our priorities. Every institution will have an incentive to maximise its share of the £100 million which will be redistributed through this change and no complete assessment of these changes on any institution can be made until that £100 million has been re-distributed.

Higher Education: Student Numbers

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students are enrolled in universities in England; and what percentage are from overseas. [154693]

Bill Rammell: The latest available information is given in the table. Figures for the 2006/07 academic year will be available in January 2008.

Enrolments at English higher education institutions 2005/06 academic year

Domicile	Enrolments	Percentage
UK	1,660,630	85.8
Other EU	84,185	4.3
Non-EU overseas	191,610	9.9
Total	1,936,420	100.0

Note:
Figures are based on a HESA Standard Registration Population and have been rounded to the nearest five.
Source:
Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Natural Environment Research Council: Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many press officers are employed by the Natural Environment Research Council. [154424]

Ian Pearson: The Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) employs five full-time press officers and one part-time press officer. The part-time and one full-time officer are employed at NERC's administrative headquarters in Swindon, the others at NERC's wholly-owned research centres.

Office of Science and Innovation

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans he has to maintain the Office of Science and Innovation. [151382]

Ian Pearson: The responsibilities of the former Office of Science and Innovation have been inherited by the Government Office for Science and the Science and Innovation Group, both of which form part of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills.

Overseas Students

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many overseas students studied in the UK in 2006; what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the effect of those students on the UK economy; and if he will make a statement. [160709]

Bill Rammell: The latest available figures from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) on the number of overseas students studying in the UK are for the academic year 2005/06. These showed that there were just over 330,000 international students studying at higher education institutions in the UK. About a third of these came from countries within the European Union, and the other two thirds came from other countries.

The Secretary of State has not had any meetings with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on this issue. However, a recent report by the British Council and Education UK estimated that the total value to the UK economy of all international students in the HE sector was over £5.6 billion in 2003/04.

Pirbright Laboratory: Disease Control

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) whether he had been informed that the drainage system at the Pirbright laboratory site posed a risk to biosecurity prior to the foot and mouth outbreak; whether he received any representations on the risk to biosecurity of the drainage system and effluent pipes at Pirbright; and if he will make a statement; [159532]

(2) what representations he received from *(a)* the Institute for Animal Health, *(b)* Merial, *(c)* the Biotechnology and Biological Research Council, *(d)* the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and *(e)* other sources on biosecurity at the Pirbright laboratory facility prior to the recent foot and mouth disease outbreak; [159535]

(3) what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the Pirbright laboratory facility; [159628]

(4) what his responsibilities are in relation to the Pirbright laboratory facility; and if he will make a statement. [159627]

Ian Pearson: Prior to the foot and mouth outbreak this summer, I was not informed of any risk to biosecurity posed by the drainage system at Pirbright and I did not receive any representations from the Institute for Animal Health, Merial, the Biotechnology and Biological Research Council or the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. I met with the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs about the Pirbright facility shortly before his announcement on 7 September.

The Pirbright laboratory is part of the independent Institute for Animal Health (IAH), a company limited by guarantee with charitable status. The trustees/non-executive directors of IAH have a range of relevant expertise. IAH is regulated directly by DEFRA and the Health and Safety Executive. IAH is sponsored, as are six other research institutes, by the Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC) a non-departmental public body whose parent Department is the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS).

Prince's Trust: Apprentices

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what discussions he has had with representatives of the Prince's Trust on the roll out of the Trust's Get Into work-based scheme to provide apprenticeships in the construction, retail and hospitality sectors for the lowest academically achieving school leavers; and what discussions he has held with his counterparts in the devolved Administrations in respect of the Get Into scheme. [156983]

Bill Rammell: The Prince's Trust is meeting the Learning and Skills Council national office on 30 October to discuss the Get Into scheme and how it relates to public funded work-based training schemes. I would be happy to receive a representation from the Prince's Trust if they wish to write to me.

Renewable Energy: Seas and Oceans

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to improve the UK's international competitiveness in technologies for mechanical and thermal renewable energy from the sea. [157984]

Ian Pearson: The Government recognise the potential for marine energy and has put in place a number of measures that support the research and development of marine renewable energy technologies.

These include commitments of over £35 million since 1999 towards innovative, industry-led development of marine renewable energy technologies (of which over £13 million was committed under the Technology Strategy Board's Technology Programme, launched in 2004) and a further £50 million under the BERR 'Marine Renewables Deployment Fund' that will support the first larger-scale multi-device demonstration projects.

Additionally, Research Councils have committed over £5.4 million since the year 2000 on research and related training specifically relevant to the area of wave and tidal power.

Other initiatives supported include the £15 million European Marine Energy Centre in Orkney and the £28 million South West Regional Development Agency's 'Wave Hub' project that will provide the infrastructure for the first pre-commercial wave farms.

We are also currently considering banding the renewables obligation, Government's main mechanism for incentivising the supply of renewable energy, to provide further market-based support for these emerging technologies.

Collectively, these make up the most comprehensive package of measures to support the development of marine energy technologies anywhere in the world.

Students: Finance

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what discussions he had with *(a)* universities, *(b)* student organisations and *(c)* employers before issuing his instruction to the Higher Education Funding Council for England not to fund universities for undergraduates who already have a first degree in another subject; [158311]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely effect on the income of *(a)* Birkbeck College and *(b)* the Open University of his recent instruction to the Higher Education Funding Council for England not to fund universities for undergraduates who already have a first degree in another subject. [158312]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* We took this decision as part of the comprehensive spending review in order to target resources on our top priorities and the country's long-term needs. While the policy has been set, we have asked HEFCE to consult widely on how it should be implemented. Our policy not only responds to the challenge in the Leitch report to increase the proportion of the work force with graduate level skills from under 30 per cent. now to over 40 per cent. by 2020 but is also fairer to both taxpayers and students who have not yet entered higher education. The overall effect of these changes on the income of individual institutions will depend on how successful they are in attracting students who meet our priorities. Every institution will have an incentive to maximise its share of the £100 million which will be redistributed through this change.

Sustainable Development

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 12 July, *Official Report*, column 1622W, on sustainable development, how many and what proportion of further education college capital projects in *(a)* 2005-06, *(b)* 2006-07 and *(c)* 2007-08 received the additional cost allowance of 10 per cent. for sustainability aspects; and what proportion of the building costs this amounted to in each case. [156430]

Bill Rammell *[holding answer 15 October 2007]:* The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) announced the additional 10 per cent. cost allowance for elements within buildings that address sustainability issues in October 2006—and as stated in the answer of 12 July, *Official Report*, column 1622W—would come into effect fully from September 2007. As such, data are only available in part for 2006-07 and only up to the present for 2007-08.

However, in order to qualify for LSC capital funds, all capital project proposals now need to address sustainable development. Therefore the majority of projects qualify for the 10 per cent. costs uplift. Since October 2006 the LSC has given detailed approval to projects costing £371 million and currently estimates that at least £30 million of these costs apply to sustainability related items.

Exact figures on the number and proportion of further education college capital projects which have received the additional cost allowance and what proportion of the building costs this amounted to in each case are held by the LSC. I have therefore asked Mark Haysom, the LSC Chief Executive to write to my hon. Friend with the information requested and place a copy of his reply in the House Library.

Teachers: Training

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many initial teacher training places were available for physical education teachers in each of the last three years; and how many will be available in each of the next three years. [158211]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 23 October 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

The following tables show the number of mainstream Initial Teacher Training (ITT) places which were available for physical education for academic years 2005/06,2006/07 and 2007/08; and the number of trainees recruited to physical education courses separately through mainstream and Employment Based Routes (EBR) ITT in 2005/06 and 2006/07.

Mainstream ITT targets for places in physical education and recruitment figures against these targets

Academic year	*Target for Physical Education mainstream ITT places*	*Recruitment to mainstream ITT for Physical Education*
2005/06	1,450	1,530
2006/07[2]	1,310	1,410
2007/08[3]	1,180	—

[1] Includes SCITT but excludes employment-based routes.
[2] Recruitment figures for 2006/07 are provisional and are subject to change.
[3] Recruitment figures for 2007/08 are not currently available
Note:
Recruitment figures are rounded to the nearest 10
Source:
Available places—DCSF
Recruitment—TDA's ITT Trainee Number Census

Recruitment to employment based routes ITT

Academic year	*Recruitment to Initial Teacher Training for Physical Education through Employment Based Routes*
2005/06	430
2006/07[1]	380

[1] Recruitment in 2006/07 is for the autumn term only and is provisional. Recruitment figures for 2007/08 are not currently available.
Notes:
1. Recruitment numbers shown are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. These figures relate to the actual number of trainees who were recruited to physical education courses through Employment Based Routes, rather than a target for the number of places.
Source:
TDA's Employment Based Routes Database

Information relating to the number of places available for physical education ITT courses for the next three years is not currently available.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the average *(a)* training and *(b)* student support cost was to train (i) a science teacher, (ii) a maths teacher and (iii) another teacher in their year of teacher training in the most recent period for which figures are available; and from which budgets the funding was drawn. [156987]

Jim Knight: I have been asked to reply.

The Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) does not collect or hold information on how much it costs a university or other initial teacher training (ITT) provider to train a teacher. While the TDA allocates and pays funding to ITT providers, it is a matter for them to determine how they deploy that funding and other income received by them for the provision of teacher training.

The following table shows the unit of funding allocated and paid by the TDA in the academic year 2007/08 for a one year mathematics, one year science and, by the way of comparison, a one year geography postgraduate ITT course. This is the national rate and rates for London based ITT will be higher (5 per cent. higher for outer London and 8 per cent. higher for inner London).

Subject	*Unit of funding*	£ *Bursary*
Science	5,630	9,000
Maths	5,060	9,000
Other secondary	4,900	6,000

The TDA also pays a number of additional recruitment premiums to encourage providers to recruit extra maths and science, especially physics and chemistry, trainees. All of this funding comes from the grant that this Department gives to the TDA for this purpose. In addition to the funding paid by the TDA, providers can also charge up to £3,070 (dependent on their access agreement) in tuition fees from individual trainees.

The average cost of providing maintenance and fee support to English domiciled postgraduate ITT students in the academic year 2006/07 was provisionally £3,670 for full timers and £1,630 for part-timers[1]. This is found from the support budgets of the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, The subject studied for ITT does not affect the support given.

[1] Support is provided in the form of grants and loans. The cost of loans is calculated using the resource accounting budget (RAB) charge of 21 per cent. for maintenance loans and 33 per cent. for fee loans. This excludes supplementary grants and allowances, e.g. for students with disabilities, students with dependants, those incurring certain travel costs and those who have recently left care. Part-time students receive the pro-rated equivalent of full-time support. The part-time figure will include those who started in 2005/06 as well as those who entered under more generous arrangements in 2006/07.

Training: Loans

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people took out career developments loans in *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06 and *(c)* 2006-07; how many of these were taking (i) level 2 and (ii) level 3 qualifications; how many were taking qualifications higher than level 3; what the average size was of the loan; for what period of study it was granted; and what the total sum (A) budgeted and (B) disbursed was in each year. [160618]

Bill Rammell: Career Development Loans (CDLs) are a successful programme administered by the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to help individuals finance vocational learning of their choice. Loan capital is provided by three high street banks.

We do not hold all the information requested. Details of level of qualifications and period of study are not recorded centrally. However, a CDL can be used to fund up to a maximum of two years study plus up to one year of practical experience. We also estimate that 25 per cent. of loans in any one year are taken out to support HE courses, primarily postgraduate courses.

Available details of loans in each of the three years are set out in the table as follows.

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Number of loans	15,273	17,841	13,502
Total loan value (£ million)[1]	69.01	85,9	71.5
Average loan value (£)	4,518	4,815	5,296
Budget (£ million)[2]	17.5	20,1	19.1
Actual expenditure (£ million)[3]	16.0	19.6	22.5

[1] Total loan value = loan capital lent by participating banks.
[2] Budget = public funds disbursed through DIUS (formerly DfES) and LSC.
[3] Actual expenditure = public funds expended.

Vocational Training

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of people in full-time work in the UK have participated in an educational or skills programme in the last five years. [161117]

Bill Rammell: The information requested is not available for the time period specified. However from the latest quarter of the Labour Force Survey (quarter two 2007) we know that 27.3 per cent. of UK full-time workers had received some form of education or work related training during the preceding three months.

We also know, from the latest national employer skills survey (2005), that employers in England had provided training over the previous year to just over 13.1 million workers (this is all workers, full and part-time) which was equivalent to three fifths of the total workforce at the time (61 per cent). They also reported that 2.5 million staff were being trained towards a national recognised qualification.

Young People: Employment

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many school leavers in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England were (i) employed and (ii) unemployed for (A) less and (B) more than six months after the completion of their GCSEs in each year since 1997. [160169]

Bill Rammell: The Department's information on school leavers is collected through the annual activity survey undertaken by Connexions Services and Careers Service Companies and cannot be analysed in the exact format requested.

However, we can give an indication of the number and proportion of year 11 leavers taken at 1 November in the year that they leave school and this is in the tables attached. Information cannot be broken down by parliamentary constituency, and figures for Jarrow are not available. Information is available at local authority level after 2001. Data from 1997-2000 is only available by Careers Company area and the figures for these years show Tyneside as a whole.

		1997		1998		1999		2000	
Area	*Activity on 1 November in the year of leaving school*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
England	Total number of leavers	561,307	—	555,269	—	563,877	—	570,279	—
	Employment	64,119	11.4	66,403	12.0	67,221	11.9	68,920	12.1
	Unemployed - active in the labour market	30,167	5.4	31,172	5.6	30,541	5.4	28,335	5.0
	Unemployed - not active in the labour market	6,254	1.1	7,000	1.3	7,970	1.4	7,225	1.3
North East	Total number of Leavers	32,896	—	32,065	—	32,750	—	32,468	—
	Employment	2,960	9.0	3,139	9.8	3,127	9.5	2,916	9.0
	Unemployed - active in the labour market	2,762	8.6	2,650	8.3	2,791	8.5	2,325	7.2
	Unemployed - not active in the labour market	522	1.6	898	2.8	884	2.7	436	1.3
Tyneside[1]	Total number of leavers	9,732	—	9,467	—	9,669	—	9,737	—
	Employment	754	7.7	821	8.7	847	8.8	841	8.6
	Unemployed - active in the labour market	1,002	10.6	919	9.7	1,100	11.4	930	9.6
	Unemployed - not active in the labour market	103	1.1	80	0.8	91	0.9	71	0.7

Note:
Data include both North and South Tyneside

		2001		2002		2003	
Area	*Activity on 1 November in the year of leaving school*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
England	Total number of Leavers	582,886	—	592,329	—	608,771	—
	Employment	69,852	12.0	66,437	11.2	68,211	11.2
	Unemployed - active in the labour market	29,343	5.0	34,347	5.9	40,104	6.9
	Unemployed - not active in the labour market	6,905	1.2	4,973	0.9	4,539	0.8
North East	Total number of Leavers	33,636	—	33,927	—	34,371	—
	Employment	3,028	9.0	2,893	8.5	2,937	8.5
	Unemployed - active in the labour market	2,345	7.0	2,808	8.3	3,422	10.2
	Unemployed - not active in the labour market	568	1.7	437	1.3	304	0.9
South Tyneside	Total number of Leavers	2,099	—	2,246	—	2,187	—
	Employment	248	11.8	172	7.7	187	8.6
	Unemployed - active in the labour market	189	9.0	196	9.3	220	10.5
	Unemployed - not active in the labour market	21	1.0	21	1.0	24	1.1

		2004		2005		2006	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
England	Total number of Leavers	625,998	—	618,273	—	630,558	—
	Employment	69,578	11.1	59,417	9.6	54,932	8.7
	Unemployed - active in the labour market	36,282	6.2	36,522	6.3	34,568	5.9
	Unemployed - not active in the labour market	4,491	0.8	4,443	0.8	4,235	0.7
North East	Total number of Leavers	34,830	—	32,971	—	33,498	—
	Employment	3,048	88	2,654	8.0	2,639	7.9
	Unemployed - active in the labour market	2,790	8.3	2386	8.3	2,487	7.4
	Unemployed - not active in the labour market	329	1.0	329	1.0	309	0.9
South Tyneside	Total number of Leavers	2,141	—	2,025	—	2,060	—
	Employment	178	8.3	210	10.4	190	9.2
	Unemployed - active in the labour market	160	7.6	161	7.7	131	6.2
	Unemployed - not active in the labour market	34	1.6	13	0.6	20	1.0

JUSTICE

Approved Premises: Reoffenders

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1153W, on approved premises: re-offenders, on what basis the effectiveness of approved premises (bail or probation hostels) is measured. [161414]

Mr. Hanson: The effectiveness of approved premises is measured in a number of ways.

An annual audit is conducted in every approved premises against a set of national performance improvement standards. The audit is scored using prescribed criteria, and approved premises managers are required to produce action plans in relation to any area of work where there is scope for further improvement. The second round of performance improvement audits has recently been completed, and the scores are currently being validated by the NOMS Performance Improvement Unit.

Additionally, each approved premises is required to submit to the NOMS Public Protection Unit a monthly return (known as the H1) containing performance data and relevant management information. The H1 returns capture data about occupancy levels, departures, drug testing and the profile of the resident group.

HM Inspectorate of Probation is presently undertaking a thematic inspection of approved premises. The field work will be completed by the end of 2007, with the final report to be published during the early part of 2008.

Burglary: Self-defence

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received on the ability of people to defend their property with reasonable force against burglary; and if he will make a statement. [161178]

Maria Eagle: Since 9 May 2007, my Department has received 18 pieces of correspondence on the subject of self-defence. 13 of those were received in October. Of these, four specifically mentioned property. There were four pieces of correspondence on other topics, which mentioned self-defence.

Compensation: Industrial Diseases

Jim Sheridan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward legislative proposals to provide compensation to people who have experienced asbestos-related diseases, including pleural plaque, and their families. [161598]

Bridget Prentice: It is already possible for people suffering from a range of asbestos-related diseases to claim compensation under the common law of negligence where they have suffered damage. In its judgment of 17 October in the case of Rothwell v. Chemical & Insulating Co. Ltd. the House of Lords held that pleural plaques do not constitute actionable or compensatable damage. The House of Lords considered the issues very thoroughly on the basis of all the evidence put before them and reached a unanimous decision. Having considered the judgment very carefully, the Government have decided that it would not be appropriate to legislate on the issue.

Contact Orders

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many contact orders were made in each year since 1997; in how many of these cases contact was taking place *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three or more years after the contact order was made; and if he will make a statement. [161319]

Bridget Prentice: The number of contact orders made in both public and private law in each year from 2000 is in the following table. Figures for 2006 will be published in the "Judicial Statistics" report, planned for release in late November. Data for earlier years are not available. It is not possible to identify from court records what contact takes place after a final order has been made and the court does not routinely review contact orders after the proceedings have ended.

Provisions in the Children and Adoption Act 2006 enable the court when making a family assistance order to require the CAFCASS officer or a Welsh family proceedings officer, appointed to work with the family, to report on such matters in relation to any contact order in force as the court may direct. These provisions, which also extend the maximum duration of a family assistance order to 12 months, were implemented on 1 October 2007.

Other provisions in the Children and Adoption Act 2006, when enacted, will enable the court to require a CAFCASS officer or a Welsh family proceedings officer to monitor contact for a period of up to 12 months in appropriate cases.

The Ministry of Justice has carried out research "Making Contact Happen or Making Contact work: The process and outcomes of in-court conciliation". The report was published in March 2006 and can be found at http://www.dca.gov.uk/research/2006/03_2006.pdf The aim of the research was to identify the overall effectiveness of in-court conciliation in contact cases as well as the relative success of the three contrasting models of conciliation.

Between six and nine months after a contact order was made, a fifth of agreements had not worked at all, most agreements were intact or had been extended, most cases were closed with low relitigation rates, many more children were having increased contact and more parents were satisfied with the quality and quantity of contact.

Number of contact orders made

	Public law	*Private law*
2000	2,155	46,070
2001	2,325	55,030
2002	3,483	61,356
2003	2,825	67,184
2004	2,406	70,169
2005	1,950	60,294

Departments: Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department follows on the maximum time taken to respond to hon. Members' correspondence; and what performance against that target was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [158590]

Bridget Prentice: My Department has issued guidance to all staff about how to draft answers to letters from hon. Members. The guidance also provides for a target to reply of 20 working days from receipt. From 1 January to 30 September my Department replied to 90 per cent. of letters from hon. Members within target.

A copy of the guidance will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Departments: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a breakdown of his Department's efficiency savings in relation to its Spending Review 2004 (SR04) targets, including *(a)* the efficiency projects in the Department, *(b)* the date on which they were initiated and *(c)* how much each was predicted to contribute to the SR04 target. [160545]

Maria Eagle: The breakdown of the former DCA's SR04 efficiency targets and specific projects can be found in the Departmental Annual Report 2006-07. The Ministry of Justice Autumn Performance Report to be published in December 2007 will have the latest performance update against these targets including those relating to ex-Home Office areas (National Offender Management Service and Office for Criminal Justice Reform).

Full detail on the specific initiatives can be found in the DCA Efficiency Technical Note published in December 2005, a copy of which is available in the Libraries of the House.

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many websites his Department currently operates; how many it operated at 1 January 2005; and what the estimated annual cost has been of running his Department's websites in the last five years. [157770]

Maria Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 539-40W. With the addition of the new Ministry of Justice website, www.justice.com this Department operates a total of 59 sites.

At 1 January 2005 the former Department for Constitutional Affairs operated 33 websites.

The approximate annual cost of running the websites of the former Department for Constitutional Affairs for the last five years is as follows:

	Amount (£)
2002-03	1,037,066
2003-04	[1]1,440,777
2004-05	2,067,202
2005-06	2,477,497
2006-07	2,802,491

[1] Figure for 2003-04 not held centrally, and cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost: estimate based on increase in costs and in the number of websites between 2002-03 and 2004-05.

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he has assessed the necessity of bringing forward amendments to Schedule 1 of the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act 2007 to delete references to the Department for Constitutional Affairs and include references to the Ministry of Justice. [160841]

Maria Eagle: We are aware of the need to make a small number of changes to Schedule 1 of the 2007 Act to reflect changes in the machinery of Government that have taken place after that part of the legislation was settled in Parliament. These include the deletion of the reference to the Department for Constitutional Affairs and inclusion of a reference to the Ministry of Justice. We are planning to bring forward secondary legislation under the 2007 Act to make the necessary changes before the planned commencement of the majority of the Act next April.

Departments: Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were employed by his Department and its predecessor on 1 January in each of the last five years; and how many of these staff were *(a)* permanent employees, *(b)* temporary staff and *(c)* contractors. [158325]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice was created on 9 May 2007, bringing together the Department for Constitutional Affairs, the National Offender Management Service, the Prison and Probation Services, and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. The figures in the following table reflects the position prior to this machinery of government change and provides data for the Ministry of Justice's constituent organisations at the nearest dates available to those requested. However the NOMS, HMPS and OCJR figures are included as part of the response to the same question from the Home Office.

The breakdown of permanent and temporary/casual employees has been published as part of the First Release since Quarter 1 (March) 2007. This is the key official source of work force numbers for the civil service and provides a breakdown of permanent and temporary/casual employees by Department. The number of permanent and fixed term appointments in each year that records are available is set out in the following table.

My Department has a national contract with Kelly Services Ltd. for the provision of agency staff. Information regarding the average number of staff employed through this agency appears in the following table. Information relating to workers employed through other employment agencies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Information related to agencies of DCA is also included in the following table showing the average number of staff employed through employment agencies by each of the DCA's agencies. HM Land Registry does not hold such information centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Statistics on the number of contractors employed by Departments are not published.

The civil service statistics represent those employees paid directly from the Department's payroll. Any contractors employed via agencies and so not paid directly by the Department are not included.

	Department and public body	*Total permanent staff (headcount)*	*Total fixed term staff (headcount)*	*Total agency workers (headcount)*	*Total staff (civil service and agency)*
1 April 2003 (FTA figure)	(DCA) LCD/Court Service	12,230	470	283	12,983
	Public Guardianship Office	310	0	100	410
1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004 (Agency figure)	HM Land Registry	8,940	110	n/a	9,050
	National Archives	530	30	199	759
1 April 2004 (FTA figure)	(DCA) Court Service/Wales Office	12,460	500	395	13,355
	Public Guardianship Office	290	0	80	370
1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005 (Agency figure)	HM Land Registry	8,680	40	n/a	8,720
	National Archives	530	40	121	691
1 April 2005 (FTA figure)	(DCA)/HM Court Service/Wales office/Scotland Office (including Office of the Advocate-General)	13,260	570	722	14,552
	Public Guardianship Office	350	0	74	424
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006 (Agency figure)	HM Land Registry	8,580	30	n/a	8,610
	National Archives	560	50	167	777
As at 30 September 2006 (Agency figure)	DCA (excluding agencies)/HMCS Court Service/Tribunals/Wales Office/Scotland Office	27,300	660	n/a	27,960
	Public Guardianship Office	340	10	n/a	350
	HM Land Registry	8,270	30	n/a	8,300
	National Archives	560	30	n/a	590

	Department and public body	Total permanent staff (headcount)	Total fixed term staff (headcount)	Total agency workers (headcount)	Total staff (civil service and agency)
1 March 2007 (FTA figure)	DCA (excluding agencies)/HMCS Court Service/Tribunals/Wales Office/Scotland Office/HM Land Registry/National Archives/Public Guardianship Office	36,090	800	360	37,250
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007 (Agency figure)					

n/a = Not available.

Note:

Figures excludes data for NOMS, OCJR and HM Prison Service—these are included in the Home Office response for the same question.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent by his Department, and its predecessor, on official hospitality in the last 12 months. [158897]

Maria Eagle: The amount of hospitality expenditure incurred by the former Department for Constitutional Affairs, which covers costs for Her Majesty's Courts Service, Tribunals Service, Public Guardianship Office and DCA Headquarters, for 2006-07 was £46,002. These figures are from the published Resource Accounts for 2006-07.

Home Office have confirmed that they have also given resource accounts figures for the last financial year, which includes ex-Home Office areas now within MoJ.

All hospitality expenditure incurred by the Department is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, which is based on the principles set out in Government Accounting and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departments: Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of questions tabled to his Department for answer on a named day to his Department and its predecessor received a substantive reply on the day named in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [161351]

Bridget Prentice: 436 named day questions were tabled to my Department between 15 November 2006 and 25 October 2007. 338 questions received a substantive reply on the day named giving a percentage of 77.52 per cent.

Family Courts

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the Government expects to publish its response to Confidence and Confidentiality: Openness in family courts. [160968]

Bridget Prentice: Our recent consultation about improving the openness of family courts closed on 1 October 2007. We received over 100 responses and are now considering them carefully. This is a complex and difficult area, and we will publish our response once we have had an opportunity to reflect fully on what people have said.

Foster Care

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of fostering orders which are likely to be made in each year following the enactment of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill. [160966]

Mr. Hanson: We have not made an estimate of the number of young people who may be subject to the fostering requirement following the enactment of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill.

The Youth Justice Board are currently piloting 'Intensive Fostering' in three areas. There is funding available for thirteen places across the three pilot sites. So far thirty six young people have been on the programme. We are working closely with the Youth Justice Board to monitor the progress of these pilots and they are being evaluated by York university. The evaluation report is due in 2008 and this will help to inform future roll out of the programme.

Indicative results show that intensive fostering is benefiting the young people who are subject to the programme. However, in practice, because of the intensive nature of the fostering, both for the young person and the family, very few young people will be assessed as being suitable for the programme.

Human Trafficking

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans the Government have to extend the provision of supported housing for victims of human trafficking. [161029]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice funds the Poppy project to provide adult women trafficked into sexual exploitation with secure accommodation, one-to-one intensive crisis support, outreach support and a resettlement service. This year an additional £100,000 was invested to top-up the £2.4 million grant, to increase the capacity of the project during the national enforcement campaign Pentameter 2.

Victims who claim asylum are eligible for asylum support and may benefit from the Poppy project outreach service. Additionally some victims are accommodated though other local voluntary and community sector organisations or where eligible through local authorities.

The United Kingdom is signatory to the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, which sets out minimum obligations in relation to the protection and support of all identified victims of trafficking. The Government are committed to implementing these measures which will enhance existing support arrangements.

Licensing Act 1964

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted under (i) section 172, (ii) section 172a and (iii) section 173 of the Licensing Act 1964 in each year since 1997; and how many landlords have had their licences revoked due to breach of these provisions. [161376]

Maria Eagle: The number of people proceeded against at magistrates court and found guilty at all courts under (i) section 172, (ii) section 172a and (iii) section 173 of the Licensing Act 1964 can be found in the following table.

Court proceedings data for 2006 will be available in late November 2007.

The Licensing Act 2003 repealed the Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Act when it came into effect on 24 November 2005.

Statistical bulletins published by the Department of Culture, Media and Sports (DCMS) on licences to sell alcohol include the number of licences revoked, but do not indicate why.

More information can be found on the DCMS website.

Number of people proceeded against at magistrates court and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Licensing Act 1964 sections 172, 172A, and 173, in England and Wales for the years 1997 to 2005[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Statute	*Offence description*	*Statute*	*Offence description*	*Statute*	*Offence description*
	Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec 3) para 6. Licensing Act 1964 Sec 172	*Holder of permission not to allow drunkenness etc. Permitting drunkenness or riotous conduct on the premises or selling liquor to a drunken person*	*Licensing Act 1964 Sec 172A as added by Criminal Justice & Police Act 2001 S.32*	*Relevant person working in licensed premises to permit drunkenness or violent behaviour etc*	*Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Schedule (Sec 3) para 7. Licensing Act 1964 Sec 173*	*Procuring drink for drunken person. Person in licensed premises procuring intoxicating liquor for a drunken person or aiding a drunken person to obtain drink*
	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
1997	9	4	0	0	3	2
1998	22	11	0	0	5	3
1999	13	10	0	0	2	1
2000	10	2	0	0	0	0
2001	10	5	0	0	0	0
2002	7	4	1	0	1	0
2003	8	6	0	0	1	0
2004	13	6	0	0	0	0
2005	10	4	0	0	1	1

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The Licensing Act 2003 repealed the Licensing (Occasional Permissions) Act 1983 Act when it came into effect.

[4] Staffordshire Police Force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Source:

Court proceedings database held by RDS—OCJR, Ministry of Justice

Pentonville Prison

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reasons HM prison Pentonville has become a Level 1 prison establishment; and if he will make a statement. [161518]

Mr. Hanson: Pentonville is a large Victorian prison on a site that has suffered from under investment over many years. A recent prisoner survey highlighted substantial challenges that remain.

The prisoner survey, daily population and operational pressures, mean that Pentonville is failing to provide a decent regime for its prisoners. Therefore, Pentonville is assessed as operating at only Level 1 standard rating.

Polling Stations

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who is responsible for determining *(a)* the number and *(b)* location of polling stations for local government elections; and if he will make a statement. [159568]

Bridget Prentice: It is for the local authority to designate the location of polling places within a parliamentary polling district. Polling places are the premises in which polling stations can be provided by returning officers. Within this framework, a returning officer will determine the number of polling stations needed for a parliamentary or local election.

Pre-trial Proceedings

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average time was between a person charged with an offence being brought to court in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Gwent in the last 12 months. [161114]

Maria Eagle: For magistrates court criminal cases completed in 2006, the average time taken from the date of charge to the date of first listing in the magistrates courts was as follows:

	Days
(a) England	9
(b) Wales	8
(c) Gwent	12

The figures are from the Ministry of Justice's Time Intervals Survey (TIS).

The following table provides further information on the average time taken between all stages of proceedings for defendants in completed criminal cases in magistrates courts where the proceedings were initiated by charge. Proceedings initiated by a summons are not included in any of the figures provided.

Average time taken between stages of proceedings for defendants in completed criminal cases in magistrates courts where the proceedings were initiated by charge. Data are for 2006 and are presented for Gwent, Wales, England, and England and Wales

Charged cases only

	Offence to charge		*Charge to first listing in magistrates court*		*First listing to completion of case in magistrates court*		*Offence to completion in magistrates court*		
	Average number of days	*Margin of error (+/-days)*	*Average number of days*	*Margin of error (+/-days)*	*Average number of days*	*Margin of error (+/-days)*	*Average number of days*	*Margin of error (+/-days)*	*Sample size (number of defendants)*
Gwent	32	6	12	1	57	7	100	9	394
Wales	41	4	8	0	43	3	92	5	2,445
England	40	1	9	0	52	1	100	1	42,408
England and Wales	40	1	9	0	51	1	100	1	44,853

Notes:
1. The Time Intervals Survey (TIS) is a sample survey that produces estimates of the average time taken between stages of proceedings for defendants in completed criminal cases in magistrates courts.
2. Results are based on proceedings in one sample week in March, June, September and December for all charged cases (adults and youth/PYO defendants). Defendants who were summonsed to magistrates courts are not included in this analysis.
3. The margin of error is a measure of the precision of a result based on a sample survey. Timeliness in magistrates courts is measured using data from a sample of the total number of defendants. The sample provides one estimate of the average time taken and different samples would produce different average times. The true value is likely to fall within the range of the sample result +/- the margin of error.
4. Both adult and youth defendants included in the one week sample survey are included.
5. First listing refers to the first listed hearing of the case in the magistrates court.
6. More detailed results and notes from the Time Intervals Survey are published in a National Statistics Bulletin at http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/timeintervals.htm

Source:
Time Intervals Survey, Ministry of Justice.

Prison Service: Restraint Techniques

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff were *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed for using restraint as a punishment against a juvenile in custody in the latest period for which figures are available. [161049]

Mr. Hanson: According to centrally held records in the public sector Prison Service, there are no cases where staff have been disciplined or dismissed for using restraint as a punishment on a juvenile in custody. Information on staff at secure training centres and secure children's homes is not collected centrally and it would not be possible to collect it without requesting a detailed search of staff records.

Prisoner Escapes: Foreigners

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners who escaped or absconded from prison were foreign nationals in each of the last 10 years; and how many of these absconded from open prisons. [161587]

Mr. Hanson: To provide this information would involve checking manually individual records which could not be done without incurring disproportionate cost.

Prisoners

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of *(a)* the likely prison population in each year until 2012 and *(b)* the number of places needed to accommodate it in each year. [160631]

Mr. Hanson: The latest prison population projections were published on the 31 August 2007 covering the period to June 2014. They offer three estimates of low, medium and high demand assumptions for 2012 ranging from 87,200 to 96,400.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people are detained in prison; and how many of them were born outside the UK. [161583]

Mr. Hanson: It is not possible to answer the question by giving the numbers of prisoners born outside the United Kingdom. However, at the end of June 2007 there were 11,097 foreign national prisoners in all

prison establishments in England and Wales, which is the last date for which foreign national prison numbers are available. The total prison population was 79,734 at that date.

These figures are available from the MoJ website:

www.justice.gov.uk

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many time-served foreign nationals are being held in *(a)* detention centres and *(b)* prisons; [161586]

(2) how many *(a)* British and *(b)* foreign national prisoners were detained in custody beyond the end of their sentence for (i) up to one week, (ii) up to one month, (iii) up to six months, (iv) up to a year and (v) more than a year in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [161619]

Mr. Hanson: The available information has been provided by the Border and Immigration Agency.

Lin Homer, the chief executive of the Border and Immigration Agency wrote to the Home Affairs Committee on 19 February setting out the position of foreign national prisoners in prisons and the immigration detention estate, as follows:

"The Home Secretary previously explained to the Committee that since April 2006 we have had to detain an increased number of foreign national prisoners beyond the expiry of their sentences where we are pursuing deportation action against them. The information we have shows that approximately 1,300 time-served foreign nationals are currently in both the IND Removals Estate and in prisons whilst we pursue deportation action against them."

She will continue to update the Home Affairs Committee.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign nationals are held on indeterminate sentences for public protection. [161585]

Mr. Hanson: At the end of June 2007 there were 240 foreign national prisoners held on indeterminate sentences for public protection in all prison establishments in England and Wales.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners: HIV and Hepatitis B and C Infection

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* percentage of prisoners infected with (i) HIV, (ii) hepatitis B and (iii) hepatitis C in the latest period for which figures are available. [161623]

Mr. Hanson: The last major study of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C prevalence in prisoners in England and Wales found that of 3,942 prisoners surveyed in 1997 and 1998, 0.4 per cent. were infected with HIV, 8 per cent. with hepatitis B and 7 per cent. with hepatitis C.

Source:

Prevalence of HIV, hepatitis B and hepatitis C antibodies in prisoners in England and Wales: a national survey.

Weild A.R., Gill O.N., Bennett D., Livingstone S.J.M., Parry J.V., Curran L. (2000). Communicable Disease and Public Health 2000;3:121-6.

Prisoners: Per Capita Costs

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost per week was of keeping a prisoner in *(a)* HMP Armley Prison and *(b)* all prisons in England and Wales in the latest period for which figures are available. [159852]

Mr. Hanson: Costs for individual prisons are published in the annual report and accounts for HM Prison Service (HMPS). For 2005-06 the cost per prisoner week at HMP Leeds (Armley) is £422; the average for prisons in the same category (male local) is £480 and for all HMPS prisons £518. The figures published in the HMPS accounts are based on direct resource expenditure and do not include all costs related to prisons such as private prisons, property costs, IT and prisoner escort services. Including these gives an overall average cost per prisoner week of £698.

For 2006-07 the cost per prisoner week at HMP Leeds is £449; the average for prisons in the same category (male local) is £485 and for all HMPS prisons £513. An overall average for 2006-07 is not yet available.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* percentage of prisoners who used intravenous drugs during their imprisonment in the latest period for which figures are available. [161622]

Mr. Hanson: The covert nature of injecting behaviour in prison makes it hard to measure but research suggests that around 2 per cent. of those using drugs in prison do so intravenously compared with the pre-prison rate of 35 per cent.

Prisons: Governing Bodies

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance is provided to prison governors on governor grades and excessive work hours; if he will place a copy of this guidance in the Library; and if he will make a statement. [161517]

Mr. Hanson: The Prison Service's policy on Work-Life Balance is set out in Prison Service Order 8010, Equal Opportunities. It recognises that traditional working patterns do not suit all staff and many have to balance their time at work against other priorities. The policy applies to all staff regardless of their status, rank or working location and can allow flexibility in working arrangements to suit an individual's needs. I have placed a copy in the Library.

Prisons: Telephone Services

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what charges were made by each prison to inmates to use payphones in each of the last 10 years. [160665]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. To provide a complete answer requires access to detail which is not easily available and requires lengthy consultations with contractors who provide both the public and private sector prisoner telephone networks.

Sexual Offences

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases have been brought under sections *(a)* 47, *(b)* 48, *(c)* 49 and *(d)* 50 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 since 2004. [160967]

Maria Eagle: Information on cases brought is not held by my Department. The number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates court for offences under sections *(a)* 47, *(b)* 48, *(c)* 49 and *(d)* 50 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 in England and Wales for the years 2004 and 2005 can be found in the following table.

The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004.

Court proceedings data for 2006 will be available in late November 2007.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates court for offences under Sections 47, 48, 49, and 50 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 for the years 2004 to 2005 in England and Wales[1, 2, 3]

	Proceeded	
Statute	*2004*	*2005*
Sexual Offences Act Section 47	3	3
Sexual Offences Act Section 48	2	7
Sexual Offences Act Section 49	0	2
Sexual Offences Act Section 50	0	1
Total	5	13

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 came into force on 1 May 2004.

Source:

Court proceedings database held by RDS - OCJR, Ministry of Justice

Solicitors Regulation Authority

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criteria are used to determine which cases the Solicitors Regulation Authority investigates further. [161378]

Bridget Prentice: The Solicitors Regulation Authority has provided me with the following response.

The principal criterion the SRA uses to determine whether further investigation is required is whether there is sufficient evidence that there has been a breach of the solicitors code of conduct with adverse impact on the consumer of legal services.

In May 2007, following a public consultation, the SRA published propositions for regulatory decision making. The aim of the propositions is to ensure that:

- the quality of the SRA's decision-making is maintained and improved
- decision-making complies with the Government's principle of good regulation
- decisions are made within a clear and consistent framework
- the process and its outcomes commands the confidence of the public, profession and other regulators

These are now being implemented.

Solicitors Regulation Authority: Complaints

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the complaint procedure is for a solicitor's firm against the Solicitors Regulation Authority. [161380]

Bridget Prentice: The Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) has provided me with the following information.

Solicitors who are not satisfied with the handling of their matter can complain to the team manager of the unit that dealt with their matter. The next stage, if still unsatisfied, would be for the solicitor to write to the quality consultant located in the SRA for a review of the matter. The final route would be to ask the Legal Services ombudsman who is independent of the SRA to review the case.

Solicitors Regulation Authority: Ethnic Groups

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many ethnic minority caseworkers are employed by the Solicitors Regulation Authority; and if he will make a statement. [161377]

Bridget Prentice: The Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) has provided me with the following information.

There are 251 caseworkers with a responsibility for regulatory investigation The ethnic origin of those caseworkers is as follows:

	Number
White	200
Black and Minority Ethnic	37
Unknown	14

Solicitors Regulation Authority: Training

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what training Solicitors Regulation Authority caseworkers receive; what the length is of that training; and whether Solicitors Regulation Authority caseworkers receive training on interacting with local communities. [161379]

Bridget Prentice: The Solicitors Regulation Authority (SRA) has provided me with the following information.

SRA staff, including caseworkers, are required to attend training, which includes issues of equality including cultural diversity. The nature of this training varies depending on the duties of the staff.

The SRA continues to review its training to ensure that it is updated and meets the learning needs of the organisation. Additional equality training has been provided for those caseworkers dealing with discrimination and service complaints.

Tribunals: Immigration

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many lay judges are available to sit on immigration tribunals at each of the 19 hearing centres in the UK. [161604]

Bridget Prentice: The Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) does not make use of lay judges in its jurisdiction. The tribunal currently employs 53 non-legal members, who were previously entitled 'Lay Members', to sit in appeals across the hearing centres in the UK.

The majority of AIT hearings are conducted by a single immigration judge. A non-legal member will sit only as part of a panel.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to appoint more lay judges to immigration tribunals in Scotland. [161605]

Bridget Prentice: There are currently no plans to appoint additional non-legal members (formerly lay members) to the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT).

The Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 establishes the principles for the use of non-legal members in appeal hearings in the future.

The overriding principle will be that the use of non-legal members on a particular hearing should bring skills, experience or knowledge that tribunal judges cannot provide, and this will also be a key criterion for future appointments to the tribunal.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many lay judges were appointed to sit on immigration cases in Scotland in each of the last five rounds of appointments. [161606]

Bridget Prentice: Appointments are not made specifically to tribunals in Scotland—appointments are made to the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT). The numbers of non-legal members made to the AIT (or lay members of the former Immigration Appeals Tribunal) for the last five years are as follows:

	Number
2002-03	0
2003-04	32
2004-05	0
2005-06	0
2006-07	0

Under the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 the general rules on composition of tribunals for hearings will be laid down by an order or orders made by the Lord Chancellor, with the concurrence of the Senior President and subject to parliamentary approval.

Young Offenders

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many children were detained in custody after their earliest release date due to a lack of other accommodation in the latest period for which figures are available. [161050]

Mr. Hanson: The data requested are not collected centrally and could not be obtained without disproportionate cost as it would be necessary to analyse the early release records of all under-18 custodial establishments manually.

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess whether any children were refused early release because the Youth Justice Board failed to keep its guidance and forms up to date in the last two years. [161413]

Mr. Hanson: The Youth Justice Board (YJB) believes all establishments follow the most up to date rules and has no evidence to suggest that young people have been denied early release because of out of date guidance or forms.

Revised guidance setting out new criteria for the electronically monitored early release of young people serving a detention and training order was circulated to the governors of young offenders' institutes, directors of secure children's homes and directors of secure training centres in May 2002. A slightly amended version of this guidance (which did not change the criteria) was circulated in May 2003.

Young Offenders: Nutrition

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions the Chief Executive of the Youth Justice Board has held with the School Food Trust on the application of new nutritional standards to children in custody. [161412]

Mr. Hanson: The Chief Executive of the Youth Justice Board (YJB) welcomes the opportunity to meet with the School Food Trust and a meeting is planned shortly.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Drugs

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many personnel are involved in poppy crop eradication and diversification in Helmand Province; and what their targets are for 2007. [161123]

Dr. Howells: Poppy eradication in Helmand Province is performed by Afghans in the Poppy Eradication Force (PEF) and in the Governor Led Eradication

(GLE) forces. There are approximately 615 personnel in the PEF. Governor Wafa has not confirmed how many personnel he will commit to the GLE force this year.

UK personnel do not conduct eradication, but do provide support to the planning and targeting work. Implementation of eradication is the responsibility of the Afghan Government. No eradication targets have been set for Helmand for 2008.

The Government's main involvement in livelihoods diversification in Helmand is through the Department for International Development (DFID)—funded Helmand Agriculture and Rural Development Programme (HARDP). This is a three-year programme designed to increase the economic opportunities for rural poor people in Helmand, including those that make a living from growing poppy. Activities include construction of rural roads, wells and latrines; provision of legal credit; support for small-scale community development projects; and agricultural support. The overall target for the programme is to deliver improved livelihood opportunities for 590,000 people by the end of the third year.

HARDP is managed by the four-person DFID Livelihoods team based in Kabul. Additional programme support is provided by the three-person DFID Helmand team which is split between Kabul and Lashkar Gah. However, actual implementation is carried out by the Ministry for Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD), and by a number of non-governmental organisations working under the auspices of MRRD and the Ministry for Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock.

Additional livelihoods diversification activities are provided through the Government's programme of Quick Impact Projects, which is managed by two staff members based in Lashkar Gah.

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to end the illegal drugs trade in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [161302]

Dr. Howells: As Afghanistan's G8 "partner nation" on counter narcotics, the UK is helping the Afghan Government to improve the implementation of their National Drug Control Strategy, spending £290 million over three years on counter narcotics measures.

In August, my right and noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, announced the UK's new package of activities, aimed at tackling the drugs trade in Afghanistan. This includes:

enhanced interdiction, to disrupt the operations of influential traffickers and weaken their links to the insurgency. We will be allocating an additional £22.5 million for the Afghan interdiction forces;

greater focus on military support to counter narcotics. We will be working with the International Security Assistance Force to do more to maximise military support for counter narcotics operations within the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation rules of engagement;

more support for counter narcotics criminal justice. The UK announced an extra £2 million at the Rome Rule of Law Conference in June;

better eradication. Afghan eradication forces need to improve. We will be working with the United States to assist them;

expanding the Good Performers Initiative to provide an incentive for governors to reduce cultivation in their provinces. We will be putting in £3.3 million; and

an extensive Afghan Government information campaign designed to convince farmers not to plant poppy. This is currently under way.

Belarus: Rights

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of *(a)* the human rights situation and *(b)* democratic reform in Belarus; and if he will make a statement. [161139]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government continue to be concerned about the lack of respect for human rights in Belarus—in particular, the intimidation of civil society activists, detention of political prisoners and the situation of minority groups. Trade unions also face major difficulties—an International Labour Organisation Commission of Inquiry concluded that many of the basic civil liberties of trade union members and leaders in Belarus have been seriously infringed. The European Commission, fully supported by member states, conducted its own investigation which confirmed these findings leading to the temporary suspension of the Generalised System of Preferences from Belarus in June this year. We also take 'every opportunity to express our continuing concerns about Belarus' human rights record with the Belarusian authorities and within the UN Human Rights Council and the UN's Third Committee, Human Rights.

It is encouraging that the recent opposition rally on 14 October was allowed to take place and that the security services had exercised restraint, but that the march was preceded by a wave of arrests and confiscation of property and materials on spurious grounds is of concern.

The UK and EU are committed to supporting democratisation and demonstrating to the people of Belarus the benefits of closer co-operation. The UK and EU have stated that they are willing to deepen the relationship with Belarus, but the Belarusian authorities must clearly demonstrate their respect for democratic values, fundamental rights and the rule of law.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has funded projects over the past two years in a number of key human rights areas, principally through the Global Opportunities Fund Reuniting Europe programme and the Devolved Programme Budget. Projects have focussed on local grassroots democracy building and youth participation in democracy activities. Funding has also been provided to expand the knowledge and understanding of human rights law, and provide assistance to local non-governmental organisations and independent media. We will, in co-operation with our partners in the EU and US, continue to help develop civil society and will look for every opportunity to improve contacts at official levels.

Bolivia: Politics and Government

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the recent attempts by right wing

separatists and business leaders in the Santa Cruz province of Bolivia to disrupt international air transport flying from Viru-Viru Airport. [161250]

Dr. Howells: We are aware of recent developments surrounding Viru-Viru airport, including reports of violence. This is a matter for the Bolivian authorities, though we hope that such disputes can be resolved amicably and peacefully.

Burma: Aung San Suu Kyi

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent diplomatic steps he has taken on the imprisonment of Aung San Suu Kyi. [161303]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary and senior officials have repeatedly called for the Burmese regime to release all political prisoners and remaining political detainees without condition, including Aung San Suu Kyi.

Working with our partners on the UN Security Council and in the EU, we helped ensure that both the UN Security Council Presidential Statement issued on 11 October and the European Council conclusions on 18 October called for the regime to begin a dialogue with Aung San Suu Kyi.

We are encouraged that UN Special Envoy Professor Ibrahim Gambari was able to meet Aung San Suu Kyi on 30 September and that since then Aung San Suu Kyi has been allowed to leave her residence and meet with Burmese Government officials. Professor Gambari returns to Rangoon shortly and we hope we shall soon see the start of a genuine process of national reconciliation in which Aung San Suu Kyi plays a full part.

Burma: Detainees

Mr. Sheerman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what steps he has taken to encourage the *(a)* protection and *(b)* release of protestors imprisoned following recent events in Burma; [161381]

(2) what recent steps he has taken to encourage the Burmese Government to improve their observance of human rights. [161382]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary and I have repeatedly called for the Burmese regime to release all political prisoners and remaining political detainees without condition and to respect the human rights of Burmese citizens. Our ambassador in Rangoon travelled to the new capital, Pyinmana, on 25 September and 23 October to emphasise these messages.

We have pushed the regime to allow the entry of United Nations Special rapporteur on Human Rights, Professor Sergio Pinheiro, to the country to make his own assessment of the human rights situation in the country, including the welfare of political prisoners. We worked with EU partners to ensure that the special session of the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on Burma on 2 October, including a call on the regime to admit Professor Pinheiro.

We note that the regime announced on 23 October that Professor Pinheiro would be allowed to enter Burma to begin this work.

Burma: Human Rights

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what steps the Government have taken to strengthen mechanisms for the reporting of human rights violations in Burma; [161472]

(2) what recent assessment the Government have made of the human rights situation in Burma. [161473]

Meg Munn: Human rights is at the heart of our Burma policy. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made a written ministerial statement on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 12-15WS, on the situation in Burma. He issued a further statement on 11 October in response to the presidential statement, unanimously adopted by the UN Security Council on 11 October, which the UK co-sponsored. This was the first formal action ever taken by the Security Council on Burma and called upon the Government of Burma to release all political prisoners and take all other measures to address human rights issues.

A compilation of the information we have on the recent human rights violations in Burma has been placed on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website. It was updated on 15 October.

The belated decision of the Burmese Government on 23 October to agree to a visit by the UN Secretary-General's special rapporteur for human rights in Burma, Professor Sergio Pinheiro is a positive step. We hope Professor Pinheiro will be able to visit soon and call upon the Burmese regime to co-operate fully with him so that he is able to fulfil the mandate of the Human Rights Council Resolution passed on 2 October. The resolution, sponsored by the EU, with the strong support of the UK, expressed deep concern about the situation in Burma. In our statement to the Human Rights Council, we drew attention to the regime's violations, including restrictions on the freedom of speech and association, and the suffering of Burma's ethnic communities. We have voiced our concern about the lack of co-operation the Burmese Government has given to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and call on the regime to grant urgent access to the ICRC so that they can resume their much needed activities in supporting human rights on the ground.

On 15 October, the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council called for a thorough and impartial investigation of the deaths of demonstrators, imprisonment of protesters and other continuing violations of human rights. In response to the Burmese Government's failure to exercise restraint in their treatment of the demonstrators, the Council of the EU agreed to implement stronger restrictive measures against the regime. The strengthened measures include a ban on the import of metals, minerals, timber and semi-precious stones and a ban on investment in these sectors. These measures are designed to target the interests of the Generals, rather than harm the people of Burma.

Earlier this year, a memorandum of understanding was agreed between the International Labour Organisation (ILO) and the Burmese Government which allows civilians to report on forced labour cases to the ILO representative in Rangoon. We hope the ILO will be able to continue working without interference by the regime.

We consistently raise human rights with the Burmese regime and we have pushed for strong resolutions on Burma at the Human Rights Council and UN General Assembly, Third Committee. Our ambassador in Rangoon has also highlighted our concerns in his meetings with the Burmese Government on an ongoing basis, most recently on 24 October.

Burma: Politics and Government

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Burma; and if he will make a statement. [161140]

Meg Munn: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary's statement of 11 October made it clear that we strongly deplore the use of violence against peaceful demonstrators and the wave of arrests that have followed. There has been an unprecedented degree of international condemnation.

Only a genuine process of national reconciliation, involving Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, all concerned parties and ethnic groups, will allow Burma to move towards greater stability and prosperity. The UN is working hard to achieve this and we are giving the fullest possible backing to their efforts.

We are encouraged that Aung San Suu Kyi has been allowed to leave her residence and met with Burmese Government officials. We hope this contact continues and produces a genuine dialogue.

Cyprus: Internally Displaced Persons

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Cypriot authorities on *(a)* restoring dispossessed Turkish Cypriots to their former homes and *(b)* paying them compensation following rejection by the Republic of Cyprus of the UN plan for a settlement; and if he will make a statement. [160660]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The issue of property in Cyprus is complex, with many Cypriots from both communities unable to return to their homes. Ultimately, we believe that this difficult issue is only likely to be fully resolved in the context of a comprehensive settlement. In this context, we continue to urge both sides to engage constructively with the UN to enable settlement negotiations to start as soon as possible.

Cyprus: Religious Freedom, Cultural Heritage

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the condition of *(a)* mosques, *(b)* Muslim shrines and *(c)* Muslim cemeteries in the Republic of Cyprus; and if he will make it his policy to request the Cypriot authorities to protect such sites from damage; [160658]

(2) if he will make it his policy to support the efforts of the Turkish Cypriot Government to protect and restore the architectural heritage of Northern Cyprus, including Christian monuments. [160659]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Pending reunification, preserving the cultural heritage of Cyprus, including Muslim sites in the south and Christian sites in the north, remains an issue of great importance. Our high commission in Nicosia maintains dialogue with both Greek and Turkish Cypriots on this issue. We welcome all efforts aimed at protecting and restoring religious heritage in Cyprus on both sides of the Green Line. The UN led process envisaged by the 8 July Agreement would provide a framework in which the issue of preserving cultural heritage could be discussed and addressed by the two communities.

Democracy

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to promote the principles of democracy in countries governed by dictators, military forces or single party structures. [160842]

Dr. Howells: The UK is committed to promoting democratic principles and values around the world. Our approach is grounded in our support for upholding universal human rights standards to which all countries are bound. Countries currently governed by dictators, military forces and by a single party structure usually have a poor record of non-compliance with human rights norms, denying rights such as freedom of expression, assembly, association, movement or information, on which democracy is built. We and our European partners regularly raise human rights concerns directly with these Governments and in international bodies.

In this context, we welcome the decision of the Burmese Government to agree to a visit by the special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Burma, Paulo Sergio Pinheiro. We hope he will be able to visit soon to fulfil the mandate of the special session of the UN Human Rights Council on 2 October.

We also actively promote human rights and the development of the foundations of democratic societies through project assistance, including through the Government's support for the Westminster Foundation for Democracy. Details of their work can be found on their website: www.wfd.org. We also support development of civil society. For example, the Government have given £500,000 over three years for grass-roots support to civil society organisations in Burma; and a programme of £3 million has been established to help build the foundations for democracy in local level political decision-making bodies in that country.

Further information on the Government's work on human rights, democracy and governance can be found in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office 2006 Annual Report on Human Rights. Copies of the report are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what departmental budget items have been reclassified, under Consolidated Budgeting Guidance, following Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 decisions; and what the *(a)* former and *(b)* new (i) classification and (ii) sum budgeted is in each case. [160413]

Meg Munn: The only amount reclassified by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office following the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 is £300,000,000 for UK staff overseas engaged in front-line diplomacy. Formally classified as administration budget, but now classified as programme 'other current' expenditure.

Departments: Assets

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what departmental assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; and what the expected revenue from each such sale is. [160353]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office, like other Government Departments, has been set a challenging asset recycling target as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR). Our target, restated in the CSR, over the next three financial years is £54 million, or £18 million each financial year, and will be reflected in our Asset Management Strategy to be published in December.

In order to maximise the price achieved for the sale of our assets, it is not our policy to provide details of our sales programme nor the price we expect to receive in advance of formal marketing.

Departments: Cost-effectiveness

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a breakdown of the Department's efficiency savings in relation to its Spending Review 2004 (SR04) targets, including *(a)* the efficiency projects in the Department, *(b)* the date on which they were initiated and *(c)* how much each was predicted to contribute to the SR04 target. [160550]

Meg Munn: As part of the 2004 Spending Review (SR04) the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) agreed a target to achieve 2.5 per cent. year-on-year efficiency savings from its core expenditures. This equates to £120 million by the end of financial year (FY) 2007-08; £33 million of which will be delivered by the British Council and the BBC World Service.

Efficiency gains in FY 2005-06 were £53.9 million against a planned outturn of £50.9 million. The efficiency gains in FY 2006-07 were £87.8 million against a planned outturn of £88.0 million. By the end of September 2007, efficiency gains are estimated to have risen to £122.4 million with a FY 2007-08 forecast of £132.5 million against a planned outturn of £120 million. The FCO is on course to deliver all targets for the SR04 Efficiency Programme.

The following table gives the present forecast savings from each of the FCO's SR04 efficiency projects. These figures may differ from the targets set for each project at the time they were set up. The original targets are revised as the projects and hence savings have developed.

Specific project target, date initiated and contribution toward SR04

Project	*Date initiated*	*Contribution to SR04 Efficiency Programme[1] (£ million)*
Lyons Review	2004	1.3
Assets Recycling	2004	7.2
Other Estates Efficiencies	2005	0.1
Prism	2004	2.7
UK Staff Pay-bill Reduction	2004	14.0
Ancillary Pay Bill Savings	2004	10.5
Overtime Reduction	2004	1.3
Local staff pay bill savings	2004	4.8
Strategic Sourcing and Demand Management	2004[2]	23.4
Procurement at Post	2004[2]	3.2
Spending Review 02 Efficiencies	2002	10.5
Strategy Units Savings	2004	0.5
Finance Directorate Savings	2004	0.3
Human Resources Directorate Savings	2004	1.9
Extra Wider Market Turnover	2004	5.6
Better Project Management	2004	2.6
Reduction in Contractor Costs	2004	0.9
Alternative Representation	2005	3.5
Directorate for Strategy and Information Restructuring	2004	1.2
Local Efficiencies	2005	4.0
BBC World Service	2004	20.1
British Council	2004	13.0

[1] Forecast calculated on September 2007.
[2] The projects refer to additional savings from projects initiated before 2004.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what dates his Department breached its *(a)* resource, *(b)* near-cash, *(c)* administration and *(d)* capital budgets since 2001; what the value of each breach was; and what the reason was for each breach. [160316]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not breached its resource budget or its near-cash budget at any time since 2001. The Administration budget was overspent in financial year 2001-02 by £31,245,000 mainly as a result of the reclassification to Administration costs of items that had previously been treated as capital expenditure. The capital budget was overspent in financial year 2002-03 by £36,826,052 mainly as a result of the capitalisation of the Berlin embassy private finance initiative contract which was previously treated as off-balance sheet and in financial year 2006-07 by £1,968,000 mainly as a result of the reclassification of grants to the UN and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation as capital.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in which financial years since 2001 his Department's outturn for its capital

budget at the end of the year was less than planned at the beginning of the year; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* reason for the underspend was in each case. [160335]

Meg Munn: The National Audit Office measures spending performance against plans by comparing outturns against final provision following Supplementary Estimates—rather than against plans at the start of the year—as plans can change during the year for a number of reasons, such as machinery of Government and classification changes. The definitive figures for final provision and provisional outturn are published each year in the Public Expenditure Outturns White Paper (available in the Library of the House). Changes to plans arising in-year are published in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses, as are differences between provisional and final outturns.

Capital underspends should be seen in the context of estate and information and communications technology programmes that stretch across a number of years. We fine tune spending across programmes towards the end of each financial year to get as close to our annual targets as possible but it is very difficult to turn the flow of capital spend on and off easily. A prudent approach is taken which resulted in underspends in some relevant years.

Departments: Road Traffic Offences

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many fixed penalty tickets were incurred by vehicles within the purview of his Department in the last year for which figures are available; and what the total cost was. [157899]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Services home fleet of vehicles have incurred 27 fixed penalty charges at a cost of £1,620.00 from January 2007. It is not possible to collate the information relevant to the FCO's overseas fleets without incurring disproportionate cost.

All of the drivers employed by FCO Services are required to abide by the law at all times, they are held personally responsible for any speeding or other driving offences they may commit.

In respect of vehicles provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency, I refer the hon. Member to the reply Under-Secretary of State for Transport my hon. Friend the Member for Poplar and Caning Town (Jim Fitzpatrick), gave to him on 18 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1185-86W.

Diplomatic Service: Defence Export Services Organisation

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Defence Export Services Organisation first secretaries there are in UK embassies and high commissions; and what plans there are to change that number. [160066]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I have been asked to reply.

The Defence Export Services Organisation has 13 first secretary posts in British embassies and high commissions. From next spring it is planned to reduce the number to 12.

Entry Clearances: Telephone Services

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of suspending the UKvisas advice line in 2007. [161525]

Dr. Howells: There has been minimal effect since the suspension of the UKvisas advice line. During the closure period, UKvisas has been providing an enhanced email service, replying to inquiries within 24 hours and whenever possible the same day. UKvisas has received very few complaints.

EU Reform: Treaties

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library the text of the Reform Treaty and Protocols agreed at Lisbon, including all the amendments in EU document CIG4/1/07 revision 1 of 5 October. [160980]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The documents approved at the informal meeting of Heads of State and Government on 18 and 19 October in Lisbon were sent to the Libraries of both Houses on 22 October. We will continue to forward all Inter-governmental Conference papers to the Libraries of both Houses as soon as we receive them.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will bring forward legislative proposals to repeal section 2 (1) of the European Communities Act 1972 if the EU Reform Treaty comes into effect. [161129]

Mr. Jim Murphy: No. As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister said on 22 October

> "if we secure all the detailed amendments that we have sought and that are in the text at the moment, we are prepared to sign the treaty and recommend to the House that the [Reform] treaty be ratified".—[*Official Report, 22 October 2007; Vol. 465, c. 32.*]

The Reform Treaty cannot come into effect unless and until all 27 member states have ratified it in accordance with their constitutional arrangements. If section 2(1) of the European Communities Act 1972 were repealed, the UK would not only be unable to ratify the Reform Treaty, we would not be able to comply with our commitments under the EU Treaties generally.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which judicial authority will adjudicate on cases related to the UK's opt-ins under the proposed EU Reform Treaty. [161130]

Mr. Jim Murphy: Under the Reform Treaty, the UK's current opt-in arrangements on Title IV of the Treaty Establishing the European Community

(covering asylum, immigration and civil justice) would be extended to cover the remaining areas of Justice and Home Affairs co-operation (which will be moved to Title IV). The UK's opt-in arrangements would also be reinforced to cover explicitly both amendments to existing measures as well as measures building on those parts of the Schengen "acquis" in which the UK participates.

It is the role of the European Court of Justice to interpret Title IV of the European Community Treaty and the Protocols establishing the UK opt-in arrangements, and to review the legality of acts under Title IV and the Protocols. This will remain the case under the Reform Treaty.

European Court of Human Rights

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take in respect of the letter to his Department from the Fourth Section Registrar of the European Court of Human Rights dated 23 October. [161596]

Meg Munn: Any action in respect of deportations is for the Home Office. We are consulting with the Home Office and anticipate responding to the European Court of Human Right's letter of 23 October 2007 shortly.

Famagusta

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he or another Minister from his Department will make a visit to the closed area of Famagusta. [160714]

Mr. Jim Murphy: There are currently no plans for Ministers from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to visit the closed area of Famagusta.

Iraq: Resettlement

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what definition he uses of locally engaged staff in Iraq; and how these differ from locally employed staff. [160687]

Dr. Howells: The terms locally-engaged, locally-employed and local staff are used interchangeably. Both refer to staff who are recruited locally, as opposed to UK-based personnel who deploy or are posted to Iraq.

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam: Sanctions

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is the Government's policy to support the introduction of targeted measures against the political and military leadership of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, as recommended by the UN Secretary General in his report on children and armed conflict in Sri Lanka S/2006/1006, December 2006. [161266]

Dr. Howells: We have been seriously concerned by reports that have criticised parties to the Sri Lanka conflict including the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) and the Karuna faction for the recruitment and use of child soldiers in violation of applicable international law. We deplore this practice: there can be no excuse for failing to observe such basic human rights. The UK is a member of the UN Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict. We fully support the Working Group's conclusions of 13 June 2007, which strongly condemned the unlawful recruitment and use of child soldiers and all other violations and abuses committed against children by the LTTE and the Karuna faction and called for an immediate end to these practices. The UK also supports the Working Group's call for further steps to be taken in the coming months if parties to the conflict in Sri Lanka do not heed this call for progress to be made.

Maldives: Politics and Government

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise with President Gayoom of the Maldives at the forthcoming Commonwealth Heads of Government Summit in Kampala concerns on progress on the Road Map to Reform in the Maldives. [161155]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has no current plans to meet with President Gayoom at the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Kampala, Uganda in November.

I refer the hon. Member to the statement I made to the House on 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 939-42.

I highlighted the UK's "excellent relationships with the Maldives, bilaterally and through our shared membership of the Commonwealth". I made clear that although there had been positive developments on the reform process to adopt a new constitution and establish multi-party democracy in Maldives, much further work remained. In a series of meetings since the summer with President Gayoom, his Ministers and the Maldives Democratic Party, Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and senior officials have urged all to redouble their efforts to implement reform. This will be vital in order to meet the 30 November deadline for concluding the new constitution and to lay the groundwork for presidential elections in 2008.

Mansour Osanlou

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the government of Iran to ensure that Mansour Osanlou, the gaoled leader of the bus workers' union in Tehran, receives proper medical care for his eye condition; and if he will make a statement. [161194]

Dr. Howells: According to a 23 October report from Amnesty International, Mansour Osanlou (the detained president of the Syndicate of Workers of the Tehran and Suburbs Bus Company) finally underwent an eye operation in a Tehran hospital on 20 October, where his family were allowed to visit him. We believe he returned to Evin prison on 25 October. We remain concerned about the treatment of prisoners in Iran, including lack of access to legal representation and medical treatment. In a meeting with the Iranian

Ambassador on 16 July I raised specific concerns about the treatment of Mr. Osanlou and urged Iran to ensure that he is treated well and in accordance with his rights.

Mr. Osanlou has been arrested and detained several times over the last two years for his involvement in peaceful industrial action by the bus worker's union. We have serious concerns about Iran's commitment to uphold its international obligations with regard to freedom of expression, freedom of association and the right to form or join trade unions. We are following Mr. Osanlou's situation closely, and will continue to raise our concerns with the Iranian authorities, bilaterally and through the EU.

Members' Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he intends to answer the letter to him dated 25 September from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. R. Tierney. [161831]

Meg Munn: I apologise for the delay in replying to my right hon. Friend. A reply was sent today.

Occupied Territories: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 52-3W, on occupied territories: peace negotiations, whether Syria has been invited to the November meeting. [161364]

Dr. Howells: Invitations have not yet been issued for the Annapolis meeting.

Oscar Oritz Antelo

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost was to his Department of the recent visit of Senator Oscar Oritz Antelo of Bolivia. [161249]

Dr. Howells: Bolivian opposition Senator Oscar Ortiz Antelo made a private visit to the UK in early October. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) helped put Senator Ortiz in contact with the All Party Parliamentary Groups on Latin America and Bolivia, as well as with some academics and media. (FCO) officials did not attend these meetings, but the official and the research analyst responsible for Bolivia separately held a working meeting with Senator Ortiz. The FCO had no financial involvement in the visit.

It is right and normal for FCO officials to maintain contact with senior figures from across the democratic spectrum in all countries, including Bolivia.

Pakistan: Entry Clearances

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make an assessment of the extent to which the geographical distribution of posts in Pakistan where visa applications are dealt with matches the geographical distribution of the residences of those making applications; and if he will make a statement. [160821]

Dr. Howells: I refer my right hon. Friend to the reply my hon. Friend the Minister for Europe gave to him on 24 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 359W.

Moreover, an assessment could be made only by examination of individual visa application forms and this would incur disproportionate cost.

Palestinians: Frontiers

Mr. Robathan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the total cost has been of the EU Border Assistance Mission in Rafah to *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the EU; and what it has done since the border was closed in June. [161046]

Dr. Howells: The EU Border Assistance Mission (EUBAM) at Rafah will cost the EU €7 million (£4,900,000) this year. The UK will pay a total of €1.19million (£832,000) of this as part of its 17 per cent. contribution to the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) budget. Any reduction in mission costs arising from the closure of the border will not revert to the UK, but be redistributed within the CFSP budget.

Since Hamas' take-over of Gaza, Gaza's crossings have either been closed, or only open for the import of humanitarian goods. The EUBAM mission is standing by at minimum operational strength, ready to resume its border-monitoring role at Rafah as soon as the situation allows. In the meantime, EUBAM staff are concentrating on the capacity building part of their mandate and offering support to the European Security and Defence Policy police mission in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (EUPOL COPPS). As one example of this, EUBAM Rafah experts recently assisted EUPOL COPPS in the delivery of public order training to the Palestinian civil police in the west bank.

Poland: Elections

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on what basis Polish people were able to vote in the UK in the recent Polish general election; and whether any reciprocal arrangements are in place to enable British citizens in other EU countries to vote in British general elections. [161156]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The embassy of the Republic of Poland informed the Foreign and Commonwealth Office by diplomatic note that 20 polling stations were organised across the UK, including four in London, two in Scotland, one in Wales and one in Northern Ireland. Postal votes were not available to Polish citizens living in the UK.

All British citizens living overseas, who were resident in the UK within the previous 15 years, can apply to become an overseas elector. They will then be able to vote in UK general and European parliamentary elections by postal or proxy vote. Voting at embassies and consulates overseas is not available.

Republic of Ireland: Diplomatic Service

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 23 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 191-2W, on the Republic of Ireland: diplomatic service, whether *(a)* the decision to dispose of Glancairn, Co. Dublin, *(b)* its subsequent lease back to his Department and *(c)* the purchase of Malay Grange, Dublin was considered by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Board before a decision was made by Ministers. [161331]

Meg Munn: The matters referred to by my hon. Friend date back to the period 1998-2003. The papers available to us show that the decisions were taken by Ministers, on the advice of officials, as is normal for major Estates issues. Without an exhaustive search of the records, at disproportionate cost, it would not be possible to be more specific than this.

Republic of Ireland: Honours

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 53W, on the Republic of Ireland: honours, by what date it was necessary for persons referred to in his reply to have notified the Secretary of State of their intention to remain a British subject. [161330]

Meg Munn: As long as the person was born in Ireland before 1 January 1949, there is no deadline on notifying the Secretary of State for the Home Department of their intentions to remain a British subject.

Sri Lanka: Human Rights

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reasons the Government and its EU partners decided not to table a resolution on Sri Lanka at the sixth session of the UN Human Rights Council in September. [161265]

Dr. Howells: The UK expressed concern about the human rights situation in Sri Lanka both nationally and through the EU in statements at the September 2007 session of the Human Rights Council. The EU also pushed for consideration by the Council as a whole by restarting negotiations on a text with the Permanent Mission of Sri Lanka with a view to updating the draft Decision originally tabled in October 2006. The EU and the Government of Sri Lanka were not able to agree wording, and the EU did not consider it appropriate to proceed further in advance of the visit of Louise Arbour, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, which took place from 10-15 October. The EU's text remains pending. We shall continue to use other opportunities at UN human rights bodies to raise our concerns.

Sri Lanka: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken to raise the situation in Sri Lanka at the UN Security Council. [161267]

Dr. Howells: The situation in Sri Lanka is not on the UN Security Council's formal agenda (i.e. listed as a matter of which the Council is currently 'seized'). However, Sri Lanka has been mentioned in 27 Security Council debates since 2003, including in thematic discussions on Protection of Civilians; briefings by the High Commissioner for Refugees; and Reports of the Secretary-General on Women, Peace and Security.

During the Security Council's biannual debate on protection of civilians in June this year, the UK expressed particular concern over the high human cost the escalation in conflict in Sri Lanka had brought.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the *(a)* security and *(b)* human rights situation in Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [161268]

Dr. Howells: We remain deeply concerned about the security situation in Sri Lanka. We have made clear our view that violence will not resolve the conflict. We have emphasised our willingness to assist efforts to help bring about a peaceful solution. We continue to stress to the Government of Sri Lanka the need to set out a credible framework for a negotiated settlement that can satisfy the legitimate aspirations of all Sri Lankans.

We continue to raise our concerns about the human rights situation in Sri Lanka. My right hon. and noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, did so most recently last month with Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Bogollagama. There are reports of serious abuses by Government forces as well as by the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam and the Karuna faction. Abuses include extra-judicial killings, disappearances and the use of child soldiers. Addressing human rights violations is a central part of our approach to finding a long-term solution to the conflict. We believe it is vital that reports of human rights violations in Sri Lanka are investigated fully and that those responsible are brought to justice. We have supported calls by the EU for the introduction of a UN-backed Human Rights Monitoring mission.

Ukraine: Entry Clearances

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answers of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 554W, on Ukraine: entry clearance, what average number of appointments have been *(a)* kept and *(b)* missed since the visa section in Kiev introduced an appointments system with a limit of seven per day. [161589]

Dr. Howells: The majority of appointments are kept. On average 1-2 appointments per week are missed by applicants failing to appear to lodge their settlement applications.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 554W, on Ukraine: entry clearances, what average number of appointments were held per day before the introduction of the seven appointments per day limit. [161590]

Dr. Howells: During the summer of 2007 an average of nine appointment slots for settlement applications were available per day in response to the increased demand. Prior to this the limit had been set at five appointments per day since October 2006.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 554W, on Ukraine: entry clearances, what the average notice period given for appointments was in the latest period for which figures are available. [161591]

Dr. Howells: The average waiting period for appointments for non-settlement visas is six working days and for settlement visas 11 working days.

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 554W, on Ukraine: entry clearances, what representations he has received on extending the minimum notice period of appointments for applications. [161592]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not received any representations on this issue apart from the hon. Member's parliamentary questions, which I answered on 9 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 554W.

Applicants choose the date and time of their appointment, rather than the visa section, with a minimum of 24 hours in advance.

Zimbabwe: Human Rights

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government have taken to strengthen mechanisms for the reporting of human rights violations in Zimbabwe. [161474]

Meg Munn: We remain deeply concerned about the deteriorating human rights situation in Zimbabwe. The UK, together with other EU member states, regularly monitors human rights violations and has obtained a wide-ranging and detailed picture of the level and extent of political violence. We actively participate in the implementation of the EU human rights defenders strategy in Zimbabwe, which includes regular contact with and support for human rights defenders. Our embassies in the region, and in particular in Harare, regularly meet with EU and other key partners, including local and international non-governmental organisations, to consider how best human rights can be defended. As part of the EU, and in our national capacity, the UK regularly raises concerns at the UN Human Rights Council, most recently in September.

The UK has also given substantial financial support to civil society organisations in Zimbabwe working to defend human rights, monitor violations and promote good governance (£2.5 million in 2006, increasing to £3.3 million in 2007).

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the percentage of English pupils who were educated in academies in each year since 2005; and what projection he has made of the percentage in each year until 2020. [161071]

Jim Knight: Information on the proportion of pupils in England educated in academies from 2005 to 2008 is included in the following table. The projected number of academies to be opened (and therefore the overall number of pupils in academies) by the end of the 2008-09; 2009-10 and 2010-11 financial years is subject to the detailed allocation of funds to the academies programme from the Department's spending review settlement, which will be announced shortly. Financial allocations for later years, which will impact on the number of academies and pupils receiving education in them, are subject to future spending review decisions.

		Percentage
	Proportion of all pupils in England educated in academies	*Proportion of all pupils aged 11 to 15 in England educated in academies*
2005	[1]—	[1]—
2006	[1]—	1
2007	1	1
2008	1	2

[1] Represents a proportion that is less than 1 per cent.

Notes:

1. Percentages are rounded to the nearest percentage point.
2. Total pupil numbers in all schools include those in maintained nursery, maintained primary, maintained secondary, city technology colleges, maintained special schools, maintained pupil referral units, non-maintained special schools, independent schools and academies.
3. Calculations based on full-time equivalents where part-time pupils are counted as 0.5.
4 School information used in calculations is pupil level based from all schools except for Pupil Referral Units. Data include dually registered pupils.
5. Figures for 2007 and 2008 are projections.

Source:

2006 Annual Schools Census and DCSF projections.

Academies: Finance

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will seek to legislate to ensure that if an academy acts in contravention of its funding agreement to the detriment of a pupil or parent, any person disadvantaged would have a direct remedy in law. [160827]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 25 October 2007]:* Academies' funding agreements are legally binding. If an academy acted in contravention of its funding agreement to the detriment of any pupil or parent, any person disadvantaged by the contravention could raise the matter with the Secretary of State. The Secretary of State can intervene to ensure any such matter is rectified and may pursue the issue through the courts if appropriate.

Children: Autism

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent estimate he has made of the number of children on the autistic spectrum who do not have a school place; and what the average length of time such children spent out of school before an appropriate placement is found was in the last period for which figures are available. [160628]

Jim Knight: The Department for Children, Schools and Families does not hold this information.

We do collect some information about the placement of children with a statement of SEN. In January 2007, 850 children with a statement were awaiting provision and a further 160 children had been permanently excluded and not yet placed elsewhere.[1]

[1] *Source:*

SEN2 Survey, January 2007 previously published on 26 June 2007 in the Statistical First Release 'Special Educational Needs in England, January 2007'. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Children: Day Care

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what definition he uses of affordable childcare; what estimate he has made of the number of affordable childcare places which *(a)* were required in each of the last 10 years and *(b)* will be required in future years for which estimates are available; and how many affordable childcare places (i) were available in each of the last 10 years and (ii) he expects to be available in future years for which figures are available. [157730]

Beverley Hughes: There is no universally applicable definition of affordability. Individual family circumstances will determine how affordable childcare is in relation to family income and is relative to the different levels of wages in different regions. We know however that childcare costs can have a substantial impact on the family budget, especially those in lower income households, which is why we are providing substantial help (over £3 million a day) through the tax credit system and 12.5 hours of free early education for all three and four year olds.

The Childcare Act 2006 requires local authorities in England to assess childcare in their areas by April 2008, and then to secure sufficient childcare for working parents and those in education or training leading to work. The affordability of childcare will be an important factor in determining whether there is sufficient childcare in a local authority area.

Children: Diabetes

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department issues to schools on the care of children with diabetes; and if he will make a statement. [161095]

Jim Knight: The Department, in conjunction with Department of Health, published in 2005 guidance for schools 'Managing Medicines in Schools and Early Years Settings' which includes specific advice on diabetes.

The Department also publishes guidance to schools on the Teachernet website on handling incidents arising from medical conditions, including hypoglycaemic episodes.

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/emergencies/typesofincident/medicalconitions/diabetes.html

Children: Poverty

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children were considered to be living in poverty in each year since 1997. [151052]

Caroline Flint: I have been asked to reply.

The most commonly used poverty indicator is the proportion of households below 60 per cent. of contemporary median income. Income is measured before housing costs: this is the international norm.

The information requested is available on page 53 of the Households Below Average Income 1994/95-2005/06 (Revised). This is available in the Library.

Coleham School Shrewsbury: Finance

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will meet the Head of Coleham Primary School to discuss funding issues in Shrewsbury. [159163]

Jim Knight: Due to diary commitments the Secretary of State is unable to meet the head teacher of Coleham Primary School. Officials in the Department will contact the hon. Member to arrange a meeting in the near future.

Curriculum

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children in year 11 in English schools were taught *(a)* history, *(b)* geography, *(c)* a modern language and *(d)* physics in each year since 1990; and if he will make a statement. [161074]

Jim Knight: The information requested is in the following table:

Percentage of all 15-year-old pupils[1] attempting GCSEs

	Geography	*History*	*Physics*	*French*	*German*	*Spanish*	*Other modern languages*
1994	43.9	39.0	6.6	55.5	20.7	5.3	2.8
1995	44.8	38.6	5.7	54.8	21.0	5.4	2.8
1996	45.5	35.8	6.0	53.2	21.3	5.7	2.9

Percentage of all 15-year-old pupils[1] attempting GCSEs

	Geography	*History*	*Physics*	*French*	*German*	*Spanish*	*Other modern languages*
1997	44.3	35.4	5.9	52.2	21.7	5.9	3.0
1998	41.0	32.9	6.3	53.4	22.1	6.7	3.2
1999	39.6	32.5	6.4	53.6	22.3	6.8	3.2
2000	37.4	32.8	6.5	54.0	22.0	7.3	3.3
2001	36.5	32.4	6.4	53.2	21.7	7.6	3.4
2002	34.3	32.0	6.4	51.4	20.6	8.0	3.4
2003	32.2	31.3	6.4	48.9	19.4	8.2	3.5
2004	30.6	31.9	6.6	45.0	18.1	8.3	3.4
2005	29.3	31.8	7.0	38.2	15.5	8.1	3.3
2006	28.5	31.8	7.4	32.1	13.0	7.9	3.2
2007[2]	27.9	30.9	8.1	28.7	11.5	8.1	2.7

[1] Aged 15 on 31 August.
[2] Data for 2007 are provisional.

Data are not available prior to 1994. A time series for any modern foreign language is not available, and so separate time series for French, German and Spanish have been given.

The Department does not hold data on the number of pupils to study certain subjects. The closest indicator held by the Department is the number of entries for each subject. It is possible that some students may study a subject but not be entered for a qualification in it.

Departments: Older Workers

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by his Department applied to continue to work beyond state retirement age in the latest year or part thereof for which figures are available; and how many of those applications were successful. [161289]

Jim Knight: The Department has no set retirement age for the majority of staff. A retirement age of 65 has been adopted by central Government for the senior civil service (SCS) but members of the SCS can request to work beyond that age.

The Department has not received any requests from SCS members to work beyond 65 years of age.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the cost of the education maintenance allowance has been in *(a)* Cheadle constituency, *(b)* Stockport Metropolitan borough council area, *(c)* Greater Manchester and *(d)* England; [158070]

(2) how many people in *(a)* Cheadle constituency, *(b)* Stockport Metropolitan borough council area, *(c)* Greater Manchester and *(d)* England have applied for an education maintenance allowance; [158099]

(3) how many people in *(a)* Cheadle constituency, *(b)* Stockport Metropolitan borough council area, *(c)* Greater Manchester and *(d)* England have received the (i) £10, (ii) £20 and (ii) £30 education maintenance allowance; [158100]

(4) what percentage of 16 to 19-year-olds in *(a)* Cheadle constituency, *(b)* Stockport Metropolitan borough council area, *(c)* Greater Manchester and *(d)* England have applied for an education maintenance allowance; [158101]

(5) what percentage of 16 to 19-year-olds in *(a)* Cheadle constituency, *(b)* Stockport Metropolitan borough council area, *(c)* Greater Manchester and *(d)* England have received the (i) £10, (ii) £20 and (iii) £30 education maintenance allowance; [158102]

(6) what percentage of applications for an education maintenance allowance have been successful in *(a)* Cheadle constituency, *(b)* Stockport Metropolitan borough council area, *(c)* Greater Manchester and *(d)* England. [158103]

Jim Knight: These are all matters for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold the information about take-up and payments under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the council's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Mark Hunter: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department has taken to advertise and raise awareness of the education maintenance allowance; and if he will make a statement. [158071]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for tie Learning and Skills Council (LSC), who operate and have responsibility for advertising and raising awareness of the education maintenance allowance (EMA) scheme for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Mark Haysom, the council's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people in *(a)* Leeds West constituency and *(b)* Leeds have been granted an education maintenance allowance since its inception. [159845]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold the information about take-up and payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive will write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Education Maintenance Allowance: Warrington

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people in Warrington borough have received the education maintenance allowance. [159104]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 18 October 2007]:* This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold the information about take-up and payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's Chief Executive, will write to my hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Education: Assessments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has made of the time taken in preparing for Key Stage Two tests in year 6 in the months leading up to these tests; what proportion of total curriculum time is spent on average in preparing for these tests; and if he will make a statement; [161035]

(2) what estimates have been made by *(a)* Ofsted, *(b)* the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority and *(c)* his Department of the time taken in year 9 for Key Stage Three test preparation; and if he will make a statement. [161040]

Jim Knight: The best preparation for any test is to ensure a pupil has the deep knowledge and understanding of a concept, and the experience of practising a skill, which permits them to demonstrate that knowledge, understanding or skill proficiently and in response to a variety of possible test questions.

Preparation for assessment should be wholly integrated into the classroom experience for pupils and not at the expense of teaching the wider curriculum.

The National Assessment Agency, which is responsible for administering the tests, advises schools to prepare their pupils for the tests by providing them with opportunities to familiarise themselves with the layout and design of past test papers, encouraging them to work independently and to be aware that there may be questions in the tests that they will not be able to answer. Head teachers have responsibility for deciding how much preparation pupils should have, but neither the Department nor NAA recommend intensive preparation for the tests.

Ofsted does not hold information that would enable them to provide estimates about the test preparation time.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans his Department has to evaluate, on an ongoing basis, the *(a)* intended and *(b)* unintended effects of the use of national targets in Key Stage tests; and if he will make a statement. [161039]

Jim Knight: Since 1998 schools and local authorities have set targets for pupils' performance in National Curriculum tests and public examinations. The impact of targets on the educational system has been evaluated through the annual test and examination results and through consultation with head teachers and local authorities. We have always made clear that we will consider sensible suggestions for how targets can be refined and improved to help teachers.

The evidence from the test and examination results since 1997 shows clearly that targets have been a powerful stimulus for improvements in standards over the last 10 years. Literacy and numeracy skills have increased significantly across all key stages, This year, 100,000 more 11 year-olds achieved the target level 4+ at Key Stage 2 in English and 90,000 more did so in mathematics compared with 1997. At secondary level, 62,000 more pupils achieved five good GCSEs including English and mathematics compared with 1997. Such rapid improvements would not have been achieved without the challenge of specific and focused targets related to performance outcomes.

In 2004 following an extensive consultation with head teachers we moved to empower schools to set pupil-driven targets that give them ownership of the goals and help them focus on improving teaching and learning in the classroom.

Targets continue to play an essential part in the Government's commitment to raising educational standards. As part of the Comprehensive Spending Review we have announced new targets which will place a focus on improving progression throughout the education system. We want to ensure that more pupils make the expected progress through the key stages at school as well as ensuring they reach the expected levels at the end of each key stage, especially pupils from disadvantages backgrounds who have not kept pace with their peers. The progress targets are an important step in helping all pupils reach their potential.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has carried out of the merits of national tests at each Key Stage; and if he will make a statement; [161067]

(2) what assessment he has made of whether the Key Stage 2 test results give a reliable indication of pupil ability in the test subjects; and if he will make a statement. [161038]

Jim Knight: National curriculum tests at each Key Stage provide a fully objective means of assessing all pupils in England on a consistent basis. This in turn provides information on standards nationally, in the priority subjects, improves accountability of schools to parents and to taxpayers and helps inform parents and teachers how individual pupils are progressing so that they can effectively plan their future learning and development. In short, national tests equip us with the

best data possible about performance in Key Stages 1, 2 and 3 to support the education system as a whole.

The national curriculum tests are designed by the National Assessment Agency (NAA) to differentiate fairly between pupils of different attainment, in line with the level descriptions in the national curriculum. They use statistical and judgemental procedures, as laid out in the National Curriculum Assessment Code of Practice to ensure that the standards of performance required for the award of each level are maintained consistently from year to year.

The Qualifications and Curriculum Authority is responsible for ensuring that standards are maintained over time and its processes for doing so in relation to national curriculum tests were found by the independent Rose Panel (1999), an independent panel commissioned by the Secretary of State to review the procedures to set and maintain standards, to be robust and to bear comparison with best practice in the world.

Extracurricular Activities

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government have taken to encourage children to take part in extra-curricular activities at school since 1997. [160759]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 25 October 2007]:* Extra-curricular activities can help increase the attainment of individual children and young people, as well as increase their aspirations and motivation to learn, enabling every child to fulfil their potential. Since 1997, the Government have been firmly committed to giving children and young people the opportunity to benefit from a wide range of extra curricular activity.

Study support is recognised as a key tool in raising pupil attainment and Improving behaviour and attendance. Since 1997 a range of activity has been undertaken, spearheaded by the publication in 1999 of the strategy document "Extending Opportunity: A National Framework for Study Support". As part of this, all schools were given access to ring-fenced Government funding for study support activities via the Standards Fund; this was subsumed into mainstream funding In 2004-05.

Playing for Success (PfS) was introduced in 1997 as part of the commitment to tackle under-achievement in urban areas. PfS is establishing study support centres at sports clubs' grounds with the aim of raising standards in literacy, numeracy, information and communication technology (ICT) among young people aged between nine and 14 years. The centres use the environment and motivating factor of sport to help pupils to re-engage with education. Typically, pupils attend for two hours per evening, after school, over a 10-week period. Attendance is voluntary. PfS has grown over the past 10 years, and in that period over 220,000 pupils have benefited from attending PfS.

Study support is now part of the extended schools programme, which promotes participation in extra-curricular activity. Starting with 60 local authorities (LAs) in 2003-04, and increasing to include all LAs in 2005-06, the Department piloted Full Service Extended Schools (FSES), delivering a full core set of services to pupils, families and the wider community.

Building from the success of FSES, the Government are committed to every school providing access to the core offer by 2010. The core offer is: a varied menu of activities (including study support and play) and child care; community access to facilities, swift and easy access to targeted and specialist services; and parenting support. The varied menu aspect of the core offer will give all children and young people the opportunity to engage in voluntary out of school hours activities, both before and after school. Activities can include breakfast clubs, homework clubs, sport, music and the arts and opportunities to pursue particular interests. There are currently over 8,000 schools delivering access to the core offer.

Significant funding has been provided to support extended schools. £680 million was made available between 2005-06 to 2007-08 to support the start up of extended schools. In July 2008, over £1 billion funding was announced for extended schools between 2008-09 to 2010-11. As part of this, £265 million will be made available to support children from disadvantaged backgrounds benefiting from additional out-of-hours tuition and after-school clubs.

Extended schools can already be shown to be making a positive impact. The Universities of Manchester and Newcastle study into the effectiveness of Full Service Extended Schools (published in June 2007) found that FSES had a positive impact on the attainment of pupils and on engagement with teaming, family stability and enhanced life chances and generated positive outcomes for families and local people, This adds to an analysis undertaken by the Department for Education and Skills, which found progress in the percentage of pupils achieving five plus A*-C at GCSE in extended schools was around double the rate of the national average between 2005 and 2006.

GCE A-Level: Mathematics

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to address the decline in take-up of mathematics and science subjects at A level. [161145]

Jim Knight: The Government are improving the take-up of mathematics and science A levels through a range of measures including:

piloting science and engineering clubs offering an engaging and stretching programme of activities to key stage 3 pupils with an interest and aptitude for science;

increasing opportunities to study the separate sciences of physics, chemistry and biology at GCSE level;

introducing a second mathematics GCSE from 2010;

from September 2007, a new statutory entitlement to a course of study leading to two science GCSEs;

funding a network of further mathematics centres through the Mathematics in Industry (MEI) project to increase the number of young people taking further mathematics A level;

developing a longer term communications strategy aimed at young people, teachers and parents to promote the value of science, technology, engineering and mathematics learning and skills for future prospects in order to boost take-up of post-16 qualifications in these subject areas.

A level entries for biology, chemistry, physics, other sciences, mathematics and further maths increased in 2007 compared to 2006.

GCE A-level: Standards

Dr. Vis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people gained *(a)* three, *(b)* four and *(c)* five grade A passes at A2 level in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007. [161051]

Jim Knight: The information requested is given in the following table. These figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds sitting GCE A levels during the academic year in question.

	Number of A grade passes at A2 level		
	3	*4*	*5 or more*
2005/06	17,582	7,631	1,564
2006/07[1]	19,189	8,005	1,581

[1] The 2007 figures are provisional. Schools and colleges will have the opportunity to amend their results as part of the annual checking exercise. As a result these figures may change.

GCE AS Level

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the purpose is of the AS level examinations at age 17; and if he will make a statement. [161232]

Jim Knight: The availability of AS level in year 12 offers choice to young people. Many choose to take a wider range of subjects at AS in year 12, before perhaps specialising further for their full A levels. Taking an exam in year 12 gives them a clear basis for taking such decisions and can encourage further study. Having a discrete award also means this study is recognised by a qualification, so those that do not go on to complete a full A level are not left empty handed. The design of the A level means that the AS forms half of the overall assessment; the option to take them in year 12 allows the whole A level assessment to be spread over two years.

AS levels do not have to be taken in year 12. For young people and schools that prefer a linear approach to A level assessment, the structure also allows for the exams to be taken at the end of the course, alongside the A2 component.

GCSE and A-Level

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of marks for each GCSE and A-level were allocated to each subject in the latest year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [161041]

Jim Knight: The figures readily available relate to the percentage of pupils who got each grade at different A-level and GCSE subjects respectively. These can be found at

GCSE and equivalent: Tables 10-13 in the Statistical First Release: GCSE and Equivalent Results in England, 2006/07 (Provisional). This information is available in the House of Commons Library or at the following link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000754/index.shtml

A-Level and equivalent: Tables 2-7 in the Statistical First Release: GCE/VCE A/AS and Equivalent Examination Results in England, 2006/07 (Provisional). This information is available in the House of Commons Library or at the following link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000755/index.shtml

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has made of the accuracy of coursework marks for *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A-levels; and if he will make a statement; [161042]

(2) what evidence *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority has of re-drafting of (i) GCSE and (ii) A-level coursework after feedback from teachers; and if he will make a statement. [161213]

Jim Knight: It is for the awarding bodies to moderate coursework marks and ensure that the grades they award are fair and consistent. Accreditation of A-levels and GCSEs includes consideration of the quality assurance and controls they have in place. It is for the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA) as the qualifications regulator to oversee standards and fairness within the exams system. Its Regulations and Standards Division runs monitoring and scrutiny programmes of awarding body practice on coursework.

The QCA's 2005 review of coursework in GCE and GCSE identified concerns about the nature and amount of support that it is appropriate for teachers to give. In response to this QCA issued guidelines to teachers and pupils on how much help centres can give to candidates. The Joint Council for Qualifications also provided a set of rules, which took effect from September 2006, which cover how much help teachers can give students. Awarding bodies use these rules to challenge and deal with any individual instances of inappropriate behaviour. There is no evidence to suggest that breaches of the rules are in any way widespread.

The changes being made to strengthen further GCSE and A-level arrangements include changes to coursework arrangements in many subjects and the introduction of controlled assessments. These will bring tighter controls around: task setting by teachers or awarding bodies; supervision of task taking and task marking by teachers or awarding bodies. Teacher set and marked tasks will not be allowed in GCSE.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what mark was required to obtain an *(a)* C grade and *(b)* A grade in each (i) GCSE and (ii) A-level course in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [161209]

Jim Knight: This information on grade boundaries is not held centrally. The process awarding bodies go through to ensure that standards are consistent means there will be variations in terms of the raw marks required between different awarding bodies' qualifications and from year-to-year. It is for the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority as the qualifications regulator to oversee the awarding process to ensure that standards are comparable both between different qualifications and over time.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which GCSEs and diplomas were entirely assessed through coursework in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [161226]

Jim Knight: No GCSEs have been awarded entirely on the basis of 100 per cent. internal assessment since 1997. The first five lines of the new Diplomas will begin to be offered from September 2008 and will be awarded on the basis of both internal and external assessment.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Standards

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of *(a)* 15-year-olds and *(b)* pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 achieved five or more GCSEs at grades A* to C including (i) English, mathematics and science and (ii) English, mathematics, science and a modern foreign language in (A) 2006-07 and (B) 2005-06. [160110]

Jim Knight: The information requested is given as follows:

(a) 15-year-olds

	15-year-old pupils[1] who gained 5+A-C at GCSE including English, mathematics and science GCSEs*		*15-year-old pupils[1] who gained 5+A*-C at GCSE including English, mathematics, science and a MFL GCSEs*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2006	263,525	40.6	167,114	25.8
2007[2]	264,520	40.3	154,520	23.5

[1] Aged 15 on 31 August.
[2] Figures for 2007 are provisional.

(b) Pupils at the end of Key Stage 4

	Pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 who gained 5+A-C at GCSE including English, mathematics and science GCSEs*		*Pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 who gained 5+A*-C at GCSE including English, mathematics, science and a MFL GCSEs*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2006	265,309	41.1	168,338	26.1
2007[1]	266,020	41.0	155,462	24.0

[1] Figures for 2007 are provisional.

Independent Schools

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 30 January 2006, *Official Report*, column 80W, to the hon. Member for Altrincham and Sale, West (Mr. Brady) on independent schools, how many and what percentage of children of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school age in (i) Reading and (ii) Wokingham attended independent schools in each year since 1999-2000. [161353]

Jim Knight: The available information is shown in the following tables.

Independent schools[1]: Number and percentage of pupils aged 5 to 10 and 11 to 15[2], position in January each year, by local authority area and government office region in England

	1999				*2000*				*2001*			
	Pupils aged 5 to 10	*%[3]*	*Pupils aged 11 to 15*	*%[3]*	*Pupils aged 5 to 10*	*%[3]*	*Pupils aged 11 to 15*	*%[3]*	*Pupils aged 5 to 10*	*%[3]*	*Pupils aged 11 to 15*	*%[3]*
England	201,180	5.2	211,950	7.0	203,120	5.3	213,270	6.9	205,590	5.4	217,620	6.9
South east	52,400	8.5	51,210	10.7	53,830	8.7	51,680	10.5	54,720	8.9	53,230	10.6
870 Reading	817	8.2	1,446	21.1	804	8.2	1,452	20.8	843	8.7	1,500	21.4
872 Wokingham	1,100	8.7	1,027	10.2	1,109	8.8	1,047	10.2	1,124	9.0	1,082	10.4

	2002				*2003*				*2004*			
	Pupils aged 5 to 10	*%[3]*	*Pupils aged 11 to 15*	*%[3]*	*Pupils aged 5 to 10*	*%[3]*	*Pupils aged 11 to 15*	*%[3]*	*Pupils aged 5 to 10*	*%[3]*	*Pupils aged 11 to 15*	*%[3]*
England	207,090	5.5	222,150	7.0	206,510	5.5	226,180	7.0	205,340	5.5	232,730	7.1
South east	55,110	9.0	54,740	10.7	54,420	9.0	55,780	10.7	53,690	9.0	57,570	11.0
870 Reading	782	8.2	1,516	21.6	795	8.5	1,540	22.3	776	6.5	1,530	22.8
872 Wokingham	1,140	9.3	1,185	11.2	1,147	9.5	1,254	11.7	1,152	9.7	1,236	11.6

	2005				2006				2007			
	Pupils aged 5 to 10	%[2]	Pupils aged 11 to 15	%e[3]	Pupils aged 5 to 10	%[2]	Pupils aged 11 to 15	%e[3]	Pupils aged 5 to 10	%[2]	Pupils aged 11 to 15	%e[3]
England	202,670	5.5	232,080	7.1	200,440	5.5	233,820	7.2	199,030	5.6	232,620	7.3
South East	52,960	8.9	57,730	11.0	52,390	8.9	58,160	11.1	52,040	8.9	58,020	11.2
870 Reading	794	8.7	1,455	22.2	778	6.6	1,439	22.0	727	8.2	1,449	22.2
872 Wokingham	1,168	9.8	1,106	10.7	1,108	9.5	1,169	11.2	1,036	9.0	1,164	11.3

[1] Excludes City Technology Colleges and Academies
[2] Age as at 31 August in previous year (start of academic year)
[3] Number of pupils in independent schools expressed as a percentage of number of pupils in same age group across all schools (excludes dually registered pupils)
National and regional totals may not appear to equal the sum of the component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Languages: Curriculum

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children were taught a modern foreign language in *(a)* year 2, *(b)* year 6, *(c)* year 9 and *(d)* year 11 in maintained schools in England in the last year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [161075]

Jim Knight: We have not collected any data on language learning in year 2, as there is no requirement for schools to teach modern foreign language in Key Stage 1. Research published by the National Foundation for Educational Research in June 2007 found that 70 per cent. of primary schools are teaching a foreign language in class time in Key Stage 2. We do not have accurate data that break this down into individual year groups so cannot provide a figure for year 6 pupils.

Languages are compulsory at Key Stage 3 so all pupils in year 9 should be taught a modern foreign language. We do not know the exact proportion of pupils who were taught a language at Key Stage 4. 46 per cent. of all pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 took a GCSE in a modern foreign language in 2007, but a few of these pupils may not have been taught, and some may have been taught but decided not to take the exam.

Learning and Skills Council

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he next plans to meet the Chief Executive of the Learning and Skills Council. [159443]

Jim Knight: I have regular meetings with Mark Haysom, the Chief Executive of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC), as part of the overall accountability and performance framework. These include regular formal review meetings. Our next such meeting is taking place on 5 November, I met Mark Haysom on 23 October when I visited the LSC's head office in Coventry.

Literacy: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* 11 year olds, *(b)* 13 year olds and *(c)* 16 year olds in Lancashire who were functionally illiterate in each of the last 10 years. [161147]

Jim Knight: Improving standards of literacy and numeracy at all stages of education has been one of the Governments top priorities. Since 1997 the results achieved by 11-year-olds and 14-year-olds as measured by National Curriculum tests in English have risen dramatically with provisional figures for 2007 showing that 80 per cent. of 11-year-olds in England reached the target level 4 and above (an increase of 17 percentage points over 1997) and 74 per cent. of 14-year-olds reached the target level 5 and above (an increase of 17 percentage points over 1997).

The National Curriculum provides a clear description of the literacy skills that children are able to demonstrate at different levels of attainment. At age 11 (the end of Key Stage 2) the expected level of achievement is level 4. Children achieving level 4 have literacy skills that mean they can access complex forms of language and complex ideas. They can use inference and deduction and can locate and use ideas and information. Their writing in a range of forms is lively and thoughtful. Handwriting style is fluent joined and legible. Full stops, capital letters and question marks are used accurately and pupils can use punctuation within a sentence.

Although level 4 is the target that we expect children to reach by the end of primary school, provisional figures show that 93 per cent. of 11-year-olds achieved at least Level 3 in English in 2007. Children assessed at level 3 can read a range of texts accurately and independently; and their writing is organised, legible and clear. Children who are assessed at level 2 will show confidence in talking and listening and their reading of simple texts will be accurate and show understanding.

The following table shows the proportion of pupils in Lancashire local authority achieving level 4 or above in Key Stage 2 English tests for each year since 1998[1].

[1] Local Government boundary changes mean that comparisons before 1998 are not valid.

	Proportion
1998	68
1999	73
2000	76
2001	76
2002	75
2003	76
2004	79
2005	81
2006	81
2007	81

The expected level of achievement at age 14 (the end of Key Stage 3) is level 5. Pupils achieving level 5 are able to speak in ways which suit different situations. They show understanding of the different things they are reading and can explain how writers influence readers. They can write in different ways that are interesting to the reader, using different sentence structures, putting writing in paragraphs and using punctuation accurately. In 2007 provisional figures show that 88 per cent. of 14-year-olds achieved at least level 3 in English.

The following table shows the proportion of pupils in Lancashire local authority achieving level 5 or above in Key Stage 3 English tests for each year since 1998:

	Proportion
1998	68
1999	66
2000	66
2001	69
2002	71
2003	72
2004	72
2005	75
2006	73
2007	74

There is no comparable nationally expected level of achievement for 16-year-olds (pupils at the end of Key Stage 4). The Government's target is for 60 per cent. of 16-year-olds to achieve 5 good GGSE grades (A*-C) or equivalent by 2008, Provisional figures for 2007 published on 18 October show that this target has been met. But we are raising the bar and in future the target for the end of Key Stage 4 will be measured against the proportion of pupils achieving 5 grades A*-C or equivalent, including GCSE English and mathematics. The provisional 2007 figure for England achieving this standard was 46.5 per cent.

The following table shows the proportion of pupils in Lancashire local authority achieving 5 or more grades A*-C or equivalent, including GCSE English and Mathematics for each year since 1998:

	Proportion
1998	38.2
1999	39.8
2000	41.3
2001	40.9
2002	42.6
2003	42.2
2004	42.7
2005	44.5
2006	45.8
2007	47.7

The provisional figures for 2007 show that 60 per cent. of pupils in England achieved at least Grade C in GCSE English. We do not publish disaggregated figures for GGSE subjects at local authority level.

Pupils: Literacy

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of 11-year-olds who were functionally illiterate in each of the last 10 years. [159816]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 22 October 2007]:* We do not have a measure of functional literacy. However, information on the attainment of pupils in Key Stage 2 English tests is shown in the following table. The expected level of achievement at Key Stage 2 is Level 4.

The characteristics of Levels 2 to 5 are as follows:

Level 2

At level 2 children begin to show confidence in talking and listening, and reading of simple texts shows understanding and is accurate.

Level 3

Children achieving level 3 are able to read a range of texts accurately and independently, tackle unfamiliar words and self correct when their reading doesn't make sense.

At level 3 pupils' writing is organised, legible and clear. Punctuation to mark sentences—full stops, capital letters and question marks—is used accurately. Handwriting is joined and legible. Pupils are aware of standard English and when it is used.

Level 4

A level 4 child has access to more complex forms of language and can access more complex ideas. They can use inference and deduction and can locate and use ideas and information.

At level 4 children's writing in a range of forms is lively and thoughtful. Handwriting style is fluent, joined and legible. Full stops, capital letters and question marks are used accurately and pupils can use punctuation within a sentence.

Level 5

Graduating to level 5 pupils can confidently read and discuss a range of texts, selecting essential points using inference and deduction where appropriate. Writing conveys meaning clearly in a range of forms using a more formal style where appropriate.

Percentage of pupils at each level

	A	*TID*	*B*	*N*	*W*[1]	*1*[2]	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*[3]	*Total*	*% at Level 4 or above*	*% at Level 5 or above*
1995	4	0	—	0	0	1	7	39	41	7	0	100	49	7
1996	3	0	—	2	0	1	6	30	45	12	0	100	57	12
1997	3	0	4	2	—	—	1	26	48	16	0	100	63	16
1998	2	0	4	2	—	—	1	26	48	17	0	100	65	17
1999	2	0	3	2	—	—	1	20	48	22	0	100	71	22
2000	2	0	3	2	—	—	1	17	46	29	0	100	75	29
2001	1	1	3	2	—	—	1	17	46	29	0	100	75	29

	Percentage of pupils at each level													
	A	*T/D*	*B*	*N*	*W*[1]	*1*[1]	*2*	*3*	*4*	*5*	*6*[1]	*Total*	*% at Level 4 or above*	*% at Level 5 or above*
2002	1	1	3	2	—	—	1	17	46	29	0	100	75	29
2003	1	1	3	2	—	—	1	16	48	27	—	100	75	27
2004	1	0	4	2	—	—	1	14	50	27	—	100	78	27
2005	1	0	4	2	—	—	1	14	52	27	—	100	79	27
2006	1	0	4	1	—	—	1	14	47	32	—	100	79	32
2007[2]	1	0	4	1	—	—	1	13	47	33	—	100	80	33

A = pupils who were absent.
T = pupils working at the level of the assessment but unable to access the test.
D = pupils disapplied from teacher assessment.
B = pupils who were assessed by teacher assessment only.
N = pupils who took the tests but failed to register a level.
W = pupils who are "working towards" Level 1 but have not yet achieved the standards needed for Level 1.
[1] Levels W and 1 were valid in 1995 and 1996 only. Level 6 was valid from 1995-2002 only.
[2] Figures for 2007 are based on provisional data. Figures for all other years are based on final data.
Note:
Data cover all schools entering pupils for KS2 tests.

Private Education: Assessments

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what proportion of English private schools have dropped the use of tests at key stages one, two, three and four; and if he will make a statement; [161036]

(2) what the average number of GCSEs taken by each pupil in English schools was in each year since 1987; and if he will make a statement. [161068]

Jim Knight: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Private Education: Standards

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of children in private schools in England achieved an A or A* grade in *(a)* GCSEs, *(b)* AS levels and *(c)* A levels in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [161037]

Jim Knight: In 2007, 82.2 per cent. of pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in independent schools achieved at least one A or A* grade at GCSE. The proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds who sat GCE A-levels in 2007 in independent schools who achieved at least one A grade was 65 per cent. The figure for AS-levels is 46 per cent.

These figures are provisional and are likely to change as a result of the Achievement and Attainment Tables checking process.

Pupil Exclusions

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many serious case reviews were conducted in each London constituency in each year since 2000; [159879]

(2) how many serious case reviews were conducted in each year since 2000. [159880]

Kevin Brennan: The Commission for Social Care Inspection, which until April this year was responsible for inspecting and monitoring local authority children' social care, entered on a database information notified by local authorities about cases subject to a serious case review (SCR). As at March 2007, the following figures are given on the database for cases where a SCR has been confirmed (with the SCR being completed or under way):

	SCRs (ongoing or completed)	*Of which: notified by London authorities*
2000	35	0
2001	45	0
2002	75	17
2003	96	12
2004	88	13
2005	73	10
2006	55	1

It should be noted that, particularly for the later years, the figures may not yet reflect all SCRs because ongoing cases may not have been recorded prior to March 2007. Figures for London are the sum of entries on the database recorded against local authorities within London for each year.

Pupils: Walking

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government have taken to encourage children and their families to walk to and from school, where possible, since 1997. [160761]

Jim Knight: In 2003 the Departments for Transport (DfT) and for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) established the joint Travelling to School Initiative to encourage more sustainable travel to school, thereby improving child health and activity levels and reducing congestion and pollution caused by the number of cars on the school run. The primary tool in helping schools achieve a reduction in car travel is the development of a School Travel Plan (STP). This helps to identify specific measures which could reduce the number of car journeys and promote and encourage more walking and cycling to school, or the use of public transport for longer journeys.

In September 2003 the Departments published 'Travelling to School: An action plan' and 'Travelling to

school: a good practice guide'. These outline how schools and local authorities can increase the number of children travelling to school on foot or by other sustainable methods.

The Government (DfT and DCSF) are providing a total of over £100 million during 2004-08 to help support the development of STPs. This includes £7.5 million each year for local authority based School Travel Advisers who help schools carry out surveys and prepare plans.

DCSF also allocates capital funding to help those schools upgrade their sustainable travel facilities. Between 2004 and 2007 more than 14,000 schools have developed STPs and been allocated more than £77 million to invest on capital items which promote or enable sustainable travel. We want every school to have a STP by 2010.

In addition to STPs schools have, for the first time in 2007, been able to apply for DfT funding to establish Walking Buses. 3,231 primary schools have received funding under this scheme in 2007-08 to enable them to set up Walking Buses to encourage children to walk to school.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will amend the methodology for the Basic Needs Allocation to take into account in its funding formula increases in the number of school places required in a locality due to the establishment of new communities; [161320]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that local authorities experiencing an increase in the number of school places required in one locality offset by a fall in the number of places required in another locality receive adequate funding under the Basic Needs Allocation to allow for the additional places required in the locality experiencing an increase. [161322]

Jim Knight: The Department supports local authorities' responsibilities to provide sufficient pupil places through our strategic capital programmes and the local formulaic programmes. The formulaic allocations take account of each local authority's pupil forecasts, on a district basis where local authorities have them, and taken together allow authorities to respond to the need in their area.

In addition, in each spending review period, the Department operates the Basic Need Safety Valve which is a mechanism whereby an authority can apply for additional funding to meet the needs arising from exceptional growth where the mainstream allocation is insufficient.

Schools: Sutton

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* central and *(b)* local government funding was available to schools in the London Borough of Sutton in (i) 2004-05 and (ii) 2006-07; and how much funding was passed on to schools in each case. [160843]

Jim Knight: In 2004-05 the Schools Formula Funding Share for Sutton local authority was £100 million and budgeted revenue schools grants (central Government funding) were £9 million—a total of £109 million. This funding covers various central services as well as funding delegated to schools. In 2004-05 Sutton local authority budgeted to pass £101.6 million directly to schools.

In 2006-07 the funding system for schools had changed. Sutton local authority had a dedicated schools grant of £107.4 million and budgeted revenue schools grants of £9.7 million—a total of £116.1 million. £120.7 million was budgeted to be passed directly to schools.

Notes:

1. The data are drawn from the local authorities Section 52 Budget Statements (Table 1) submitted to the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

2. Schools budget is derived from the total schools budget minus grants. Revenue grants are based on grants allocated to the school at the start of the financial year. Funding passed directly on to schools is the combination of individual schools budget plus revenue grants devolved to schools.

3. These figures do not represent the totality of education funding in that year—funding to cover LEA central functions is not included. In addition figures do not include any capital funding allocated to schools.

4. The revenue funding that individual schools receive via their school budget shares is a matter for individual local authorities to decide locally through their own local funding formulae (subject to satisfying the minimum funding guarantee for schools).

5. The figures are for all funded pupils aged 3-19 and are in cash terms.

Science: Curriculum

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what reasons science is designated a compulsory subject for Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 tests; and if he will make a statement. [161102]

Jim Knight: The focus on English, mathematics and science in the curriculum and assessment at Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 reflects the importance of securing a firm grounding in these subjects to the future prospects of young people in education and the world of work.

Science helps pupils to explore the world around them and understand many things that have relevance to daily life. It is a key element of preparation for life in modern society and is essential to our future economic prosperity.

Scouts and Guides: Shrewsbury

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will meet scout leaders of Monkmoor Scouts in Shrewsbury to discuss a grant for a new scout hut. [159446]

Ed Balls: Due to diary commitments I am unable to meet with the scout leaders at Monkmoor Scouts. Officials in my Department will contact the hon. Member to set up a meeting in the near future.

Secondary Education: Class Sizes

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of year 7 pupils in each English local authority area in each of the next 10 years. [160093]

Jim Knight: Estimates for the number of year 7 pupils in each English local authority over the next 10 years are not available centrally. The following table shows the estimated number of year 7 pupils in full-time education in schools in England:

Projected numbers of year 7 pupils (thousand)[1] in maintained schools, academies and city technologies

At January aged 11 at previous 31 August	*All year 7 pupils*
2008	566
2009	576
2010	561
2011	555

[1] Full-time equivalents, counting each part-time pupil as 0.5. The numbers have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

Notes:

1. Pupil numbers in maintained schools includes those in middle, secondary, maintained special schools and maintained Pupil Referral Units.
2. Projections are based on a target of 200 academies by 2011.
3. Projections use 2006 School Census Data and are being updated in November 2007.

Projections are not shown beyond 2011 because of the increasing degree of uncertainty over time.

Shrewsbury Sixth Form College

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) if he will respond to the concerns of teachers of Shrewsbury Sixth Form College on proposals to relocate their college to another part of Shrewsbury; [159444]

(2) if he will meet the hon. Member for Shrewsbury and Atcham to discuss the proposals to co-locate Shrewsbury Sixth Form College with Shrewsbury College of Arts and Technology College. [159445]

Bill Rammell: I have been asked to reply.

I met with a delegation from Shrewsbury Sixth Form College (SSFC) on 16 July 2007, and listened to the concerns expressed about the proposed co-location of SSFC with Shrewsbury College of Arts and Technology College (SCAT).

The decision of the colleges to co-locate is entirely a matter for the respective governing bodies. I understand that all options have been carefully appraised, and that the decision to co-locate will allow learners to access world-class facilities and a broader curriculum offer than they could by staying on the current site.

I understand that numerous consultation meetings have been held with various stakeholder groups over the past three years, including the 'Let's Talk' public consultation held on the 4 October 2006, and the public meeting held on 12 January 2007.

Special Educational Needs Statements

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his estimate is of the proportion of children with a statement of educational needs as a result of social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. [161107]

Jim Knight: Figures from the School Census show that in January 2007 14.3 per cent. of those pupils with a statement of SEN in maintained primary and secondary schools and all special schools in England (excluding academies) had social, emotional or behavioural difficulties as their primary need.

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will list each course diploma and examination available in year 11 which was considered as having a value of *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four GCSEs in each year since 2003; what courses, diplomas and examinations will be available in each year until 2010; and if he will make a statement. [161210]

Jim Knight: A comprehensive and accurate answer can be provided only at disproportionate cost. I will write to the hon. Member with as much information as possible in due course.

Teachers: Mathematics

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to increase the numbers of qualified teachers in mathematics and science subjects. [161144]

Jim Knight: The Government are committed to improving the supply of well-qualified teachers of mathematics and science and make financial incentives available to encourage people to train as teachers of these subjects. In mathematics and science we offer a training bursary of £9,000 to students taking a postgraduate certificate of education (PGCE) and, after successful completion of induction, a golden hello of £5,000.

We fund the Training and Development Agency for Schools to advertise for recruitment to particular shortage subjects, to provide help and advice telephone lines to potential teacher trainees, and to run pre-training enhancement courses in mathematics, physics and chemistry to enable people without a degree in the subject, but with post-A-level knowledge, to train as specialist teachers in these subjects. There are premia for ITT providers who refer mathematics and science candidates to these courses and who accept them onto the Graduate Teacher Programme.

We have extended postgraduate teacher training courses to enable providers to offer significant chemistry, physics and mathematics subject knowledge training. The expansion of Teach First planned up to 2009/10 also gives high class graduates the opportunity to teach shortage subjects in challenging schools.

The Training and Development Agency for Schools is piloting courses to retrain serving teachers as specialist teachers of mathematics, physics or chemistry. The Secretary of State has just announced that, following a recommendation by the School Teachers' Review Body, a £5,000 incentive will be paid to teachers who successfully complete such a course.

Teachers: Nursery Schools

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many specialist qualified early years teachers are in employment in early years settings in England. [160662]

Jim Knight: As at January 2007 there were 12,900[1] qualified teachers directly involved with the care of three and four-year-old children.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release 19/2007 "Provision for children under five years of age in England—January 2007" in May, which is available on my Department's website:

www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/

[1] The 2007 information was collected from early years providers as part of the Early Years Census (EYC) data collection exercise and is based on 19,892 out of the expected 20,432 returns.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students are training as specialist early years teachers in England. [160663]

Jim Knight: In 2006/07 a total of 5,160[1] students were training to teach in the Foundation Stage and in Key Stage 1.

Figures for 2007/08 are not yet available.

[1] Data source: Training and Development Agency for Schools.

TRANSPORT

A11: Road Traffic

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average daily traffic flow was on each section of the A11 in *(a)* Suffolk and *(b)* Norfolk in each of the last five years. [161569]

Mr. Tom Harris: The information requested is in the table as follows.

		Annual average daily traffic (AADT)[1]				
County	*A11 section description*	*September 2002-August 2003*	*September 2003-August 2004*	*September 2004-August 2005*	*September 2005-August 2006*	*September 2006-August 2007*
A11 Northbound						
Suffolk	A14 to A1101	17,887	18,385	18,955	19,006	19,069
Suffolk/ Norfolk	A1101 to A134	11,255	11,648	11,867	11,986	11,990
Norfolk	A134 to A1075	11,903	11,908	11,719	11,815	12,062
	A134 to A134	14,311	14,391	14,907	14,915	14,871
	A1075 to A47	16,900	16,571	15,150	14,780	15,007
A11 Southbound						
Norfolk	A47 to A1075	16,971	17,691	16,136	15,119	15,183
	A1075 to A134	11,786	11,895	11,734	11,877	12,096
	A134 to A134	14,487	14,471	14,881	14,869	14,821
Norfolk/ Suffolk	A134 to A1101	11,330	11,730	11,969	12,298	12,313

[1] Annual average daily traffic flows (AADT), is defined as the average of flows for all days within the year.

Aviation: Safety

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will place in the Library documents or information which her Department, or the Civil Aviation Authority, has in respect of the claim by Flybe's cabin crews that poisonous fumes have been leaking into the cabins of Flybe's fleet of BAE 146 aircraft; and if she will make a statement. [161430]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has received no documents specifically from Flybe cabin crews although we are, of course, aware of concerns about cabin air and have had contact with Flybe management about our plans for research.

The CAA's mandatory occurrence report scheme (MORs) database contains reports of smoke/fume events submitted by UK operators of BAE 146 aircraft. In accordance with the CAA's regulatory practice these reports do not identify operators or aircraft registration numbers. I am arranging for the papers to be placed in the Libraries of the House.

In January 2004 the Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) reported on fume events involving BAE 146 and other types of aircraft. Please see the link below. The AAIB will continue to investigate reports of all serious incidents.

www.aaib.gov.uk/publications/formal_reports/1_2004_g_jeak

I would also refer my hon. Friend to my answer of 25 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 468-9W.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Air Accidents Investigations branch plans to investigate claims that *(a)* poisonous fumes and *(b)* bleed air including toxic particles have been sucked into the cabins of Flybe's fleet of BAE 146 aircraft; and if she will make a statement. [161431]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In January 2004 the AAIB published a comprehensive report of an inspector's investigation into a 'cabin fumes' related incident occurring to a BAe 146 aircraft (registration G-JEAK) during its descent into Birmingham airport on 5 November 2000. The scope of the investigation however was widened considerably when further similar incidents, some involving other aircraft types, were reported. The report made five safety recommendations, to both the CAA and the FAA, concerning preventative measures and future research. Tests and research are continuing at the present time.

The AAIB have been made aware of 20 events concerning a degradation of cabin air quality occurring to Flybe BAe 146 aircraft since the report was published, four of which have occurred in 2007.

The AAIB investigate all accidents and incidents falling within the Civil Aviation (Investigation of Air Accidents and Incidents) Regulations 1996. Occurrences falling outside of these regulations are reported using the mandatory occurrence report (MOR) scheme to the Civil Aviation Authority.

Bicycles: Accidents

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps the Government has taken to reduce the number of road traffic accidents involving cyclists since 1997. [160661]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Measures to improve road safety for cyclists include providing better infrastructure, promoting cycle training, improved training and testing for motorists and encouraging cyclists to protect themselves, by making themselves conspicuous and by wearing a safety helmet.

The new edition of the Highway Code, published in September 2007, includes enhanced advice to all road users to look out for and be aware of vulnerable road users, including cyclists. To make drivers more aware of cyclists the theory test question bank contains a large number of questions about vulnerable road users. The screen-based theory test allows the use of digitised video clips to help test hazard perception with moving images, which include cyclists. The practical driving test has been lengthened, providing a greater opportunity for encountering cyclists.

We have doubled Cycling England's budget to fund additional links to schools and to fund grants to enable more children to receive Bikeability, the new national cycle training standard.

We concentrate our cycle safety publicity on teenagers and younger children, as these are the most vulnerable groups. We have run various cycle safety campaigns over the last 10 years. Currently, cycling safety messages for younger children are included on the Hedgehogs website including advice and games. Last year we produced an online advertisement for children called 'No helmet, no ride', which encourages children to wear a cycle helmet, which last ran in the summer of this year.

There is also the cyclesense website aimed at teenage cyclists, giving advice and tips of cycling safety. This year in an MTV/THINK! competition teenagers were asked to come up with ideas for TV commercials about road safety, including cycling, aimed at their peers. This activity ran over five months and the three best ideas were produced as TV commercials and teens voted for their favourite ad online. Invisible, about being seen when out cycling and wearing a helmet, came second.

The Department's leaflet 'Drive Safe Cycle Safe' also encourages drivers and cyclists to share the road safely. The Department has grant funded a number of projects to improve road safety for cyclists including a RoSPA produced DVD on safety for cyclists and lorries.

Biofuels

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether an EU-US taskforce on biofuels has been set up in accordance with the statement made in the 2007 Budget. [159195]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Following the statement in Budget 2007, the UK put forward a set of proposals for consideration on cooperation between the EU and US on biofuels.

A commitment was reached at the EU-US summit in April this year, for the EU and US to work together to develop a set of compatible specifications for pure biofuels, taking into account existing standards; work to promote strategies for sustainable biomass cultivation, including standards as appropriate; establish a roadmap for developing compatible standards for biofuels; continue analysis of biofuel resource assessment; and exchange information on the respective EU-US research agendas on second generation biofuel sources. In addition, the EU and US affirmed their commitment to reach agreement on transatlantic research cooperation under the bilateral EU-US science and technology agreement, which will focus on the development of second generation biofuels.

Biofuels: Animal Products

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment she has made of the potential merits of converting tallow into biodiesel; [161599]

(2) what estimate she has made of the cost of converting tallow into biodiesel; [161600]

(3) what assessment her Department has made of the advantage of converting tallow into recycled products; and if she will make a statement; [161635]

(4) what estimate she has made of the cost of converting tallow into recycled products. [161636]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I announced during the debate on the RTFO Order in the Seventh Delegated Legislation Committee on 23 October that the Government would commission an independent review of the likely impacts of the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) on the other UK industries that use tallow as a feedstock.

The Government will be finalising the scope of, and terms of reference for the review, over the coming weeks. The review will cover the wider environmental advantages and disadvantages, as well as the economic impacts, of using tallow as a biodiesel feedstock. It will be informed by stakeholders from the relevant industries, including the biodiesel, oleochemicals, soap and cleaning products industries, and by other relevant stakeholders. I intend that it should report by April 2008.

British Waterways Board: Finance

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what discussions she has had with her counterpart in the Welsh Assembly Government on the funding of British Waterways; and if she will make a statement; [160718]

(2) what discussions she has had with her counterpart in the Scottish Executive on the funding of British Waterways; and if she will make a statement. [160719]

Jim Fitzpatrick: British Waterways is mainly funded by the Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (Defra) in England and Wales and by the Scottish Executive in Scotland.

The Department for Transport provides funding to British Waterways through the Freight Facilities Grant (FFG) scheme.

There have not been any discussions between Transport Ministers and their Welsh and Scottish counterparts with regards to the funding of British Waterways.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department plans to make a financial contribution to British Waterways; whether she has had discussions with British Waterways on funding; and if she will make a statement. [160720]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Defra is the single Government sponsor of British Waterways (BW) in England and Wales. It provides core funding towards the upkeep of its waterways. Other Government Departments have the flexibility to fund the inland waterways direct where they can deliver specific policy requirements, eg through grants for regeneration and freight projects where funds are provided to reflect the contribution of inland waterways to departmental objectives.

Earlier this year, the Department provided BW with Freight Facility Grant (FFG) funding of £1.37m towards the cost of constructing the lock in the Prescott Channel. When complete, the lock will enable the transport of construction materials by water to the Olympic site. BW has also applied for an additional £0.5 million relating to the transport of materials by water to the Stratford City development site. A decision on whether to agree to this additional funding has not yet been made.

The Department has had no other discussions with BW on funding. However, I understand that Defra and BW were working closely together on planning for the CSR07 period in the context of the Department's overall priorities and financial pressures. Defra is also working with BW on a new long term strategy for a sustainable network that delivers wider government priorities including regeneration, protection of historic and natural environment, well-being and freight.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what grants her Department provided to British Waterways in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [160767]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply.

Before the creation of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and Department for Transport (DfT) in 2001, policy for transport and sponsorship of British Waterways (BW) rested with the Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR). DETR funding provided to BW between 1997 and 2001 is set out as follows:

	Amount (£ million)
1996-97	51.0
1997-98	51.9
1998-99	53.6
1999-2000	59.0
2000-01	64.9

Since 2001, sponsorship of BW and its core funding has rested with DEFRA. However, earlier this year, DfT provided BW with a Freight Facility Grant (FFG) of £1.37 million towards the cost of constructing the lock in the Prescott Channel. When complete, the lock will enable the transport of construction materials by water to the Olympic site. The grants provided by DEFRA, and the Scottish Executive since 2001 are set out as follows:

	Amount (£ million)[1]
2001-02[2]	61.4
2002-03[2]	71.6
2003-04[2]	76.6
2004-05[2]	59.1
2005-06[2]	62.6
2006-07[2]	55.5
2007-08[2]	55.5

[1] DEFRA grant.
[2] Post Devolution.
Note:
Table excludes contributions to National Loans Fund

Cycleways: East Midlands

Mr. Skinner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cycle routes have been established in the East Midlands since 1997. [161054]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We do not collect centrally information on cycle routes from local authorities.

A cycle route is often a combination of different highways such as cycle tracks (off road), cycle lanes (on road) and the local road network. Cycle routes are signed as advisory routes for cyclists often taking them away from the more heavily trafficked roads.

We have encouraged all local highway authorities to develop local cycle networks as part of their local cycling strategy within their local transport plans and more and more are doing so. Most authorities produce local cycle network maps for cyclists.

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what departmental budget items have been reclassified, under Consolidated Budgeting Guidance, following Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 decisions; and what the *(a)* former and *(b)* new (i) classification and (ii) sum budgeted is in each case. [160409]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Comprehensive spending review decisions have not led to the reclassification of any of the Department for Transport's spending.

Departments: Civil Proceedings

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many civil law suits have been brought against her Department based either wholly or partially on grounds provided by the Human Rights Act 1998; how many were settled out of court, before a court judgment was delivered; and how much settlements cost the public purse since 1998. [160694]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Consultants

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which private consultancy firms *(a)* her Department and *(b)* agencies which report to her Department engaged in each of the last three years; which programmes or projects each firm worked on; and what the approximate cost to the Department or agency concerned was of each engagement. [155876]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Lists have been placed in the Libraries of the House for commissions recorded within the Department and its agencies accounting systems as consultancy for financial years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Departments: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will place in the Library a breakdown of her Department's efficiency savings in relation to its Spending Review 2004 (SR04) targets, including *(a)* the efficiency projects in the Department, *(b)* the date on which they were initiated and *(c)* how much each was predicted to contribute to the SR04 target. [160541]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department's Efficiency Technical Note (ETN) sets out the projects that have been set up to deliver the Department's efficiency target of £785 million by the end of 2007-08 and create an adequate contingency margin. The ETN is published on the Department's website and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House. All of these projects were initiated either during 2004-05 or earlier. An update on progress against efficiency targets was published in the Department's 2007 Annual Report which has been placed in the Library of the House, and a further update, showing strong progress towards the target, will be contained within the Department's Autumn Performance Report which will be placed in the House Library when it is published later in the year.

Departments: Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were employed by her Department on 1 January in each of the last five years; and how many of these staff were *(a)* permanent employees, *(b)* temporary staff and *(c)* contractors. [158327]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A breakdown of permanent and temporary/casual employees by Department is published by the Office for National Statistics in Table 6 of the Quarterly Public Sector Employment First Release. For the latest year (31 March 2007) the figures for the Department for Transport are:

31 March 2007	*Permanent employees*	*Temporary/Casual employees*
Headcount	19,340	410
Full-time staff equivalents (FTSE)	18,410	380

Prior to this, this information has been collected from the Mandate survey and published in the Civil Service Statistics publication. Statistics have not been collected or published for the reference date 1 January. The reference date of the statistics published for each year is given.

	Permanent employees	*Temporary/Casual employees*
30 September 2006		
Headcount	19,610	280
FTSE	18,670	260
1 April 2005		
Headcount	17,620	370
FTSE	16,630	310
1 April 2004		
Headcount	16,580	450
FTSE	15,760	410
1 April 2003		
Headcount	15,380	610
FTSE	14,600	540

Statistics on the number of contractors employed by departments are not published. The civil service statistics represent those employees paid directly from the Department's payroll. Any contractors employed via agencies and so not paid directly by the Department are not included.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what percentage of employees in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by her Department are above state retirement age. [158948]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number and percentage of staff that are above state retirement age in the Department for Transport and its Executive agencies are as follows:

Agency	*Number of employees above state retirement age*	*Percentage of work force*
DFT (Centre)	1	0.05
DSA	75	2.8
DVLA	7	0.1
GCDA	12	4.1
HA	5	0.14
MCA	17	1.33
VCA	1	1
VOSA	7	0.28
DFT total	125	0.7

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on how many occasions she has visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [158924]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Since joining the Department in June 2007, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport has made official visits to London, the South East, West Midlands and North West regions of England. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Departments: Policy

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what policy changes her Department has implemented since 27 June 2007. [159288]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department has implemented a number of new and changed policies since 27 June 2007. We have kept Parliament fully informed of these changes.

For example:

the publication of the interim report on the Ports Policy Review on 19 July, about which I made a written statement to the House;

substantial improvements to the railway as set out in the Rail White Paper ("Delivering a Sustainable Railway") on 24 July, which was the subject of an oral statement in the Commons by the Secretary of State on the same day; and

the Prime Minister gave Crossrail the go-ahead when he announced a £16 billion funding deal had been secured to allow for its construction; the details of which were set out in the comprehensive spending review on 9 October.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what dates her Department breached its *(a)* resource, *(b)* near-cash, *(c)* administration and *(d)* capital budgets since 2001; what the value of each breach was; and what the reason was for each breach. [160322]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport was created in 2002 and since then has not breached its resource, near-cash, administration or capital budgets.

Departments: Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many citizens' juries were arranged by her Department since June 2007; which organisations have been commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the estimated cost is of each exercise. [159499]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport and its agencies have not commissioned a citizens' jury since June 2007.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many citizens' juries were arranged for *(a)* her Department and *(b)* her Department's agencies in each year since 1997; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the cost was of each. [160008]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport was formed in May 2002, since then the Department and its agencies have not commissioned a citizens' jury.

Departments: Research

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department spent on its rolling programme of customer research in each of the last five years; how much of that was spent on procurement of skills from *(a)* external consultants, *(b)* polling companies and *(c)* other service providers; and what areas were covered in the last year's rolling programme of customer research. [159126]

Jim Fitzpatrick: An estimate of the total amount spent on customer research by the Department and its agencies in each of the last five financial years is:

	Amount (£)
2003-04	3,295,768
2004-05	2,123,801
2005-06	2,625,754
2006-07	6,006,483
2007-08	4,510,943

Almost all customer research commissioned by the Department and its agencies is conducted externally by consultants, polling companies and other service providers. However, data on the precise breakdown of spending on each of these groups are not available.

Areas covered by customer research commissioned in 2007-08 include: service user/customer satisfaction research, public attitude and opinion research in relation to specific departmental policies and communication campaigns, and exploratory research with targeted population groups.

Departments: Secondments

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Lewes of 16 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 971-72, on Departments: secondments, in what teams the seconded members of staff have worked during the course of their secondment. [160532]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Secondees in the central Department for Transport and its agencies are working in the following areas:

Rail and National Networks Group
Planning and Performance Directorate
Accessibility and Equalities Directorate
Chief Scientific Advisor's Unit
Environment and International Directorate
Corporate Finance Directorate
Legal Services Directorate
Major Projects Directorate
Road and Vehicle Safety and Standards Directorate
Aviation Directorate
Department of Operations, Marine and Coastguard Agency

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Lewes of 16 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 971-72W, on Departments: secondments, when each seconded member of staff joined her Department. [160533]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The start date of inward secondees to the central Department for Transport and its agencies are as follows:

Organisation	*Start date*
Kent Fire Brigade	2004
First Group Plc.	2005
French Transport Ministry	2005
RNIB	2006

Organisation	*Start date*
Strathclyde Fire Brigade	2006
QinetiQ	2007
Energy Saving Trust	2007
Deloitte	2007
Freshfields	2007
PricewaterhouseCoopers	2007
Swedish Transport Ministry	2007
Civil Aviation Authority	2007
KPMG	2007
Dutch Department for Roads and Waterways	2007

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) of 16 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 971-2W, on Departments: secondments, (1) what measures are in place to ensure that seconded staff do not work on matters which may affect their official employer; [160534]

(2) what requirements for confidentiality are placed on staff seconded to her Department from outside Government. [160535]

Jim Fitzpatrick: As an acting civil servant a secondee owes duties of confidentiality and loyal service to the Crown. These require the secondee to exercise care in the use of information which the secondee acquires in the course of their official duties and to protect information which is held in confidence, in accordance with the department's staff handbook. Secondees are also subject to the Official Secrets Act 1989 and in certain circumstances to The Business Appointment Rules.

Considerable care is taken when negotiating the secondment terms and conditions to ensure that all parties are content that the secondment will present no opportunity for real or perceived conflicts of interest. These considerations are set out in written terms and conditions which must be formally agreed by the secondee and his/her parent organisation before the secondment can commence.

Departments: Standards

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of her Department's public service agreement targets *(a)* take and *(b)* do not take account of rural proofing. [159636]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Under the new Public Service Agreement (PSA) framework the Department for Transport will be responsible for leading the PSA 'Deliver reliable and efficient transport networks that support economic growth'. This PSA is specifically focused on the contribution that transport makes to economic growth. Wider priorities for the Government's transport policy are covered separately in other PSA outcomes to which transport is a significant contributor. Where relevant, rural proofing will be taken into account in the development of specific policies to implement the PSA.

Departments: Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many and what percentage of questions tabled to her Department for answer on a named day received a substantive reply on the day named in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [161338]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Between 1 October 2006 and 30 September 2007, 718 named day parliamentary questions were tabled to the Department with 605 (84 per cent.) answered on the date specified.

My ministerial colleagues and I aim to ensure that hon. Members received a substantive response to their named day question on the named day. Unfortunately, this is not always possible, but the Department for Transport makes every effort to achieve these timescales.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) records are incorrect; and how many customer complaints the DVLA has received in the last 12 months, broken down by the regional origin of the complaint. [159131]

Jim Fitzpatrick: 33 million vehicle records are maintained at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. Of these 2.6 per cent. of the vehicle keepers cannot be traced directly from the record. There are 42 million driver records also held at DVLA. 18.5 per cent. of these cannot be traced directly.

DVLA has a variety of initiatives in place to increase accuracy levels. These are set out in my answer given today to the hon. Lady (UIN 159199).

Customer complaints are not broken down by region but by the type of enquiry received.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Databases

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the accuracy of the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority database; and what steps have been taken to improve levels of accuracy of the database. [159199]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) conducts Biennial surveys to assess the accuracy of its databases. The last survey, in 2005, estimated that 97.4 per cent. of vehicle keepers could be accurately traced from the record. The figure from the drivers record was 81.5 per cent. The more frequent interactions with motorists on vehicle registration matters are reflected in the figures.

Drivers and vehicle keepers are required to notify DVLA when changes occur in personal details and vehicle keepership and steps have been taken to enforce and improve this process by:

Introducing from next year the renewal every 10 years of photocard driving licences;

Using links to the Passport Agency to help check identity in support of a driving licence application;

Introducing electronic service opportunities for driving licence applicants;

Wheelclamping and impounding unlicensed vehicles, which are not released until the keeper provides accurate information;

A system of continuous registration that requires sellers to notify DVLA when a vehicle changes hands;

Keeping a database of all undelivered registration documents used to identify incorrectly registered vehicles;

A requirement to produce documentary evidence of name and address on certain vehicle registration applications at DVLA local offices.

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency: Telephone Services

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of calls to help lines provided by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency for use by *(a)* members of the public and *(b)* hon. Members were not answered in the last period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [161814]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The most recent period for which figures are available show that 6.6 per cent. of all call attempts were not answered. It should be noted that these calls / customers might have subsequently got through. Detailed breakdowns are not available specifically for hon. Members.

Driving Offences: Fines

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average cost was to issue a penalty charge notice in the last period for which figures are available. [159123]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not kept centrally.

Driving Offences: Local Councils

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance her Department gives to councils on *(a)* the issuing of penalty charge notices, *(b)* the collection of fines and *(c)* towing away private vehicles. [159120]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Guidance on these matters is given in the Department for Transport's Local Authority Circular 1/95 on Decriminalised Parking Enforcement Outside London. We are currently consulting on new England-wide guidance to replace the 1995 circular and complement proposed civil enforcement legislation under the Traffic Management Act 2004: Parking Policy and Enforcement Operational Guidance to Local Authorities in England. Both documents are on the Department's website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/?view=Filter&t=local+authority+circular+1+95&pg=1

www.dft.gov.uk/consultations/open/betterparking/

Copies have also been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Driving: Safety Measures

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the effect of the introduction of the EU directive in December which restricts the numbers of miles drivers can drive without having a rest period; and if she will make a statement. [161687]

Jim Fitzpatrick: A new EU Regulation on drivers' hours (Regulation (EC) 561/2006) setting maximum limits on driving time and minimum requirements for break and rest periods for most drivers of large commercial vehicles came into force on 11 April 2007. It does not restrict the number of miles a driver can drive before taking a rest period.

The new EU Regulation clarified and simplified the previous 1985 Regulation making it easier to enforce. An assessment of its effect has not been completed as it has only been in force since April.

Fisheries: Compensation

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects payments to commence under the London Gateway Port disturbance payment compensation scheme to fishermen who fish predominantly in the reclamation area. [161131]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Details of and the timing of payments under the privately agreed London Gateway Port disturbance payment compensation scheme are a matter for London Gateway Port Ltd.

Freight: Roads

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to encourage the migration of freight from road to rail, with particular reference to the *(a)* A1(M), *(b)* A14 and *(c)* A47 major trunk roads; and if she will make a statement. [161761]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department provides two grants to encourage the migration of freight from road to rail. The Freight Facilities Grant helps offset the capital cost of providing rail freight handling facilities and the Rail Environmental Benefit Procurement Scheme assists companies with the operating costs associated with running rail freight transport. These grants are not targeted at particular roads but are available to freight flows which would otherwise move by road where rail is more expensive. During 2007-08 these schemes will secure the removal of over 1 million lorry journeys from our roads.

Gateway Reviews

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department spent on carrying out Gateway Reviews in each of the last five years, broken down by budget heading. [160530]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2191W.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2192W, on Gateway reviews, what percentage of the projects which returned *(a)* red, *(b)* amber and *(c)* green upon Gateway reviews have subsequently been successful. [160500]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Projects and programmes ordinarily commission multiple Gateway reviews during their lifecycle. These reviews typically reduce the criticality of their recommendations (ie moving from red to amber to green) over time as a project becomes more established and their environment less fast-changing.

The dynamic nature of a Gateway status makes it impossible to link 'colour' and eventual outcome in the way requested.

Heathrow Airport

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department has taken to model the public health impacts of proposals for Heathrow expansion; whether public health modelling will inform the consultation document on Heathrow Airport expansion; and if she will make a statement. [160431]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The focus of our assessment has been on the conditions we laid down in the 2003 Air Transport White Paper for further development—namely that it should meet critical noise and air quality limits, both of which we recognise have implications for human health. Our forthcoming consultation will invite views on the evidence brought forward. We have made it clear that we would expect any proposals for future development to be the subject of a health impact assessment at the planning stage.

Heathrow Airport: Departmental Cooperation

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what arrangements are in place between Ministers and officials of her Department and the Home Department to co-ordinate activities at Heathrow Airport, with particular reference to improving conditions for users of the airport. [160490]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Ministers and officials of the Department for Transport and the Home Office and airport representatives regularly meet to consider and improve passenger facilitation at Heathrow and other UK airports.

Level Crossings: Death

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were killed at *(a)* pedestrian and *(b)* vehicular rail level crossings in each of the last three years. [161128]

Mr. Tom Harris: The information requested is shown in the table as follows:

Level crossing fatalities 2004-06[1] (excluding suicides and trespassers)

	(a) Pedestrian crossings	*(b) Vehicular crossings*	*Total*
2004	2	15	17
2005	1	13	14
2006[2]	4	4	8

[1] Rail safety statistics are published on a calendar year basis.
[2] Data are provisional because Coroner's Inquests into incidents involving level crossings have yet to be concluded.

Level Crossings: Public Footpaths

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make it her policy to close rail level crossing footpaths where they are *(a)* redundant and *(b)* assessed as a safety risk and nuisance; and if she will make a statement. [158489]

Mr. Tom Harris: This is a matter for local authorities and rail infrastructure managers. Section 118A and 119A of the Highways Act 1980 provides for the stopping up by a local authority of a footpath which crosses a railway on the grounds of expedience in the interests of safety of members of the public using or likely to use the footpath. It is for rail infrastructure managers to manage the safety risk at level crossings.

Military Aircraft: Air Conditioning

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps her Department has taken in response to symptoms of tunnel vision, loss of balance and loss of feeling in hands and lower arms reported by the pilots of a BAe 146 on 19 February 2007; and what assessment she has made of the health and safety implications of those symptoms. [161276]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Air Accidents Investigation Branch (AAIB) conducted an investigation into an incident involving a German registered Boeing 146 D-AEWB, departing from Birmingham on 19 February 2007. Following the incident, the engine, serial number LF05407AC, was replaced. German authorities received a copy of the report which is published in the July 2007 edition of the AAIB Bulletin and can be found on their website at:

http://www.aaib.dft.gov.uk/publications/bulletins/july_2007/bae_146_300__d_aewb.cfm

The independent Committee on Toxicity (COT) recently completed its evidence review of cabin air fume events. Its report, which was published on 20 September, can be found on its website. The COT considered that it was not possible to conclude whether cabin air exposures (either general or following incidents) cause ill-health in commercial aircraft crews. It recommended further work, in particular and as a priority, to ascertain whether substances in the cabin environment during fume events could potentially be harmful to health. COT considered that this work should be designed to detect 'any' potentially harmful substances, rather than focus on named substances.

In keeping with its commitment to promoting healthy flying, the Department accepts this priority. We have recently been testing equipment which may be capable of capturing substances released during fume incidents. Subject to the results of this testing, the Department hopes to begin a study later this year or early next year.

Motor Vehicles: Accidents

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment her Department has made of the comparative impact 4x4 and other vehicles have on *(a)* other vehicles and *(b)* pedestrians when involved in a collision; [161559]

(2) what assessment her Department has made of the *(a)* accident rates and *(b)* severity of accidents of 4x4 vehicles in comparison to other vehicles. [161560]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department's research shows that occupants of smaller and lighter vehicles may be at more risk of injury than those of larger and heavier ones. The Department has no evidence to differentiate the risk associated between 4x4 vehicles and vehicles of a similar weight or size. The Department is currently working with international partners in developing new tests to reduce the injury risk to occupants of more vulnerable vehicles.

From October 2005 all light vehicles up to 2.5 tonnes mass have been required to provide pedestrian protection in their design. A second phase of measures is planned for 2010 but the European Commission has recently proposed increasing the scope to vehicles up to 3.5 tonnes mass.

The Department does not have information on accident rates requested. However, the number of reported personal injury road accidents by accident severity and the involvement of different car sizes in Great Britain in 2005 are shown in the following table.

Number of accidents

	Accident severity			
Vehicle size	*Fatal*	*Serious*	*Slight*	*Total*
Small/low sports	53	313	2,742	3,108
Small	692	6,068	52,621	59,381
Small/medium	728	5,710	48,625	55,063
Medium	546	4,160	35,271	39,977
Large	114	755	6,452	7,321
MPV/people carrier	89	832	7,617	8,538
4x4/four wheel drive	102	763	5,722	6,587

Motor Vehicles: Registration

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what percentage of passenger vehicles in England and Wales are estimated to be foreign registered; [160101]

(2) what estimate she has made of the number of foreign registered passenger vehicles not registered in the UK by migrant workers within six months of arrival; and if she will make a statement; [160102]

(3) what estimate she has made of the proportion of foreign registered passenger vehicles that belong to *(a)* immigrants, *(b)* migrant workers and *(c)* tourists and other short term visitors; and if she will make a statement; [160104]

(4) what measures she plans to take to improve the collection of data on foreign registered passenger vehicles entering the UK; [160105]

(5) what estimate her Department has made of the number of foreign registered passenger vehicles entering the UK in each of the last 10 years. [160106]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Data about foreign registered passenger vehicles entering the UK, or on UK roads, are not collected. However, a roadside survey is undertaken each year to produce estimates of vehicle excise duty evasion. Data from the survey in June this year will be analysed in the new year to see if a robust estimate of foreign registered vehicles on UK roads can be produced.

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the number of foreign registered passenger vehicles that have incurred *(a)* 0 to 10, *(b)* 11 to 50 and *(c)* 51 and over unpaid penalty charges for decriminalised traffic contraventions; and if she will make a statement. [160103]

Jim Fitzpatrick: This information is not held centrally.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what date she plans to open a consultation on proposals to improve the MOT fee-setting process and the possible deregulation of MOT fees. [160502]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department is intending to launch a consultation on MOT testing policy including the process for setting test fees in the next few months.

Network Rail: Cost Effectiveness

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she plans to meet any of the saving which the 2007 pre-Budget report requires from her Department through efficiency improvements in Network Rail's management processes and cost control and robust and effective franchise agreements by means of increased franchise premia payments from train operating companies. [160075]

Mr. Tom Harris: The White Paper 'Delivering a Sustainable Railway' of July 2007 (Cmnd 7176) sets out the improvements in safety, reliability and capacity which the Secretary of State wants to secure and the funds available for the railway over the period 2009-14.

Network Rail is on course to deliver cost efficiencies of 31 per cent. by 2009. Further targets will be set by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) in the forthcoming Periodic Review 2008. It is for the ORR to determine what further efficiency improvements Network Rail should make.

The White Paper's statement of funds available shows franchise subsidy falling over the period 2009-10 to 2013-14. This reflects a decrease in the proportion of railway support which is borne by taxpayers rather than passengers. Premium payments are decided through an open market competitive process and the structure of such payments throughout the period of the franchise is agreed at the time of the franchise award.

Private Roads

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many properties in England are on unadopted roads. [161211]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We have no record of how many properties in England are on unadopted roads as this information is not held centrally.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many miles of unadopted road in England there are. [161212]

Ms Rosie Winterton: DfT does not hold information on unadopted roads.

Public Transport: Elderly

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will make changes to the draft Local Transport Bill in order to include provision to improve the access of older people to public transport in line with the memorandum submitted to her by Help the Aged. [158494]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I welcome the support that Help the Aged have given to the aims of the Bill and have noted the points made in their submission to the draft Local Transport Bill consultation. We are currently analysing responses to the consultation and revising our proposals accordingly. We will be making an announcement in due course.

Railways: Basingstoke

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the projected change in passenger numbers using the rail network between *(a)* Basingstoke and London and *(b)* Basingstoke and Reading is in each of the next five years. [161666]

Mr. Tom Harris: Forecasts of future passenger demand were made as part of the preparation for the rail high level output specification. These forecasts used the standard rail industry methodology, and looked at peak flows into major cities and across strategic routes. They were not made on a station to station basis.

The forecasts are published in the Schedule to Appendix A of the July 2007 rail White Paper 'Delivering a Sustainable Railway'.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate she has made of the change in passenger capacity on the rail network between *(a)* Basingstoke and London and *(b)* Basingstoke and Reading in each of the next five years. [161667]

Mr. Tom Harris: The passenger capacity between Basingstoke and London forms part of the requirement for the 9,200 extra peak passengers the Government have specified to be accommodated at London Waterloo by 2014. The passenger capacity between Basingstoke and Reading is part of the 706m extra passenger km the Government have specified to be accommodated on the South West Main Line routes by 2014.

Railways: Finance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reasons are for increased premia payments for train operating companies under franchise agreements; and if she will make a statement. [159192]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Department does not specify the size of the premium offered by bidders as part of the bids for a franchise. It is up to each of the bidders to propose what level of premium to offer as part of their bid. Bidders are first assessed on the robustness of their proposals to deliver the franchise specification to the passenger and subsequently the value for money that their bid offers to the taxpayer.

If a bidder is unable to demonstrate satisfactorily how it will deliver the franchise service the DFT will not award the franchise to that bidder even if the bidder offers the largest premium.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how she plans to achieve the £1,238 million per year saving at her Department through efficiency improvements in Network Rail's management processes and cost control and robust and effective franchise agreements, as stated in the pre-Budget report and Comprehensive Spending Review. [159201]

Mr. Tom Harris: The White Paper 'Delivering a Sustainable Railway' of July 2007 (Cmnd 7176) sets out the improvements in safety, reliability and capacity which the Secretary of State wants to secure and the funds available for the railway over the period 2009-14.

Network Rail is on course to deliver cost efficiencies of 31 per cent. by 2009. Further targets will be set by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) in the forthcoming Periodic Review 2008. It is for the ORR to determine what further efficiency improvements Network Rail should make.

The White Paper's statement of funds available shows franchise support falling over the period 2009-10 to 2013-14. This reflects a decrease in the proportion of railway support which is borne by taxpayers rather than passengers.

Railways: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* percentage and *(b)* actual change he expects there to be in numbers of seats on (i) peak and (ii) off peak services from Peterborough to London Kings Cross between December 2007 and January 2009; and if she will make a statement. [161388]

Mr. Tom Harris: The information requested is as follows:

Intercity Services

National Express East Coast Limited (NXEC) has no current plans to alter the present Monday-Friday peak or midday off-peak services at either the December 2007, May 2008 or December 2008 timetable changes for services from Peterborough to London Kings Cross.

First Capital Connect Services (FCC)

A fleet of new trains is due to be introduced on the Peterborough to London route as part of the final stage of the Thameslink Programme in December 2015.

FCC, in the meantime, at the December 2008 timetable change will see an extra 16 carriages on London to Peterborough and Cambridge routes. This will allow key peak services to provide additional 1,779 and 2,490 seats in the morning and evening peaks respectively.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate she has made of likely levels of overcrowding on the East Coast Mainline Kings Cross to Peterborough line over the next five years; and if she will make a statement. [161389]

Mr. Tom Harris: Forecasts of future demand to 2014 and of peak crowding were made as part of the preparation for the rail High Level Output Specification. The Government's July 2007 HLOS seeks, among many improvements, additional capacity into Kings Cross sufficient to meet this forecast demand and to ensure peak crowding does not worsen. On 1 November Network Rail intends to publish its Strategic Business Plan setting out how the rail industry proposes to provide this capacity.

Railways: Rolling Stock

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1094W, on railways: rolling-stock, how many extra rail carriages will be introduced in each stage; and on which lines. [160536]

Mr. Tom Harris: The plan for deployment of the extra carriages in terms of timing, quantity, and route, will be determined in collaboration with the railway industry. This process will start following the imminent publication of Network Rail's Strategic Business Plan, and will continue through to 2014.

Railways: Safety

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with the Office of Rail Regulation on the safety implications of the use of train whistles at night. [161127]

Mr. Tom Harris: None. Under health and safety law it is for railway duty holders, specifically infrastructure managers, to decide on the safety implications on the use of train whistles at night. The Rail Safety and Standards Board (RSSB), the rail industry's own safety body, defines the industry's approach to the use of train whistles at night. In April 2007, responding to public concern, RSSB amended the relevant standard so that

> "between 11pm and 7am trains will no longer routinely sound their horns; and between 7am and 11pm, where trains are able to, they will only use the lower tone of the two-tone horn when passing whistle boards."

Railways: South East Region

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consultations have taken place on increasing rail capacity in line with house building planned for the South East regional area. [161668]

Mr. Tom Harris: Existing and future population patterns were among the issues considered as the department compiled the South Eastern and Southern Regional Planning Assessments for the railway, both of which were published in January 2007. Both documents were produced following extensive discussions with the relevant regional and local authorities.

Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation: Rain Forests

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she plans to take to ensure that the implementation of a renewable transport fuel obligation does not damage rain forests. [160475]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) will include a reporting mechanism under which any transport fuel supplier wishing to earn a certificate for the supply in the UK of any litre of renewable transport fuel will be required to complete a report on the carbon savings associated with, and wider sustainability impacts of, the fuel in question. The Renewable Fuels Agency is expected to publish regular reports highlighting the different performance of different transport fuel suppliers, and allowing consumers to compare the extent to which different suppliers make efforts to source sustainable biofuels. We believe that this will create a very strong incentive on transport fuel suppliers to source only the most sustainable biofuels.

We have also announced that we aim, from April 2011, to reward biofuels under the RTFO only if the feedstocks from which they are produced meet appropriate sustainability standards, provided that this is compatible with World Trade Organisation rules and EU Technical Standards requirements, and is consistent with the policy framework being developed by the European Commission as part of the review of the existing EU biofuels legislation. We have recently published an informal policy paper (available via http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/environment/rtfo/secrtfostake/informalpolicypaper) setting out in more detail how we intend to take this commitment forward.

In the meantime, the UK Government are also lobbying the European Commission to ensure that the binding sustainability framework for biofuels that is likely to be included as part of the forthcoming Renewable Energy Directive is as robust as possible.

Road Signs and Markings: Expenditure

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much was spent on street signs in each of the last five years; [159117]

(2) how many street signs have been removed since the Manual for Streets launch; [159119]

(3) how much was spent on removing street signs in each of the last five years. [159118]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This Department is responsible for the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (2002) that prescribe traffic signs and road marking for the use by highway authorities. It is the responsibility of local authorities to install (and remove) traffic signs as necessary to indicate the provision of their local Traffic Regulation Orders. Decisions on what restrictions should

be applied (and signed) are a matter for local discretion. There is no central information either on the number of traffic signs installed or removed by authorities nationally and the cost of these measures.

Roads: Canvey Island

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on the feasibility study into a new access road for Canvey Island; what assessment she has made of the *(a)* safety, *(b)* congestion, *(c)* regeneration and *(d)* environmental impacts of providing such an access road; and if she will make a statement. [160233]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The feasibility study for an additional access road to Canvey Island is not at present a matter for assessment by the Secretary of State but one for consideration by the local planning and transport authorities. I am aware that the local highway authority, Essex county council, is continuing its investigation of such a proposed road scheme.

Should the council decide in principle to promote such a scheme, it would need to obtain the region's agreement to prioritise the scheme for funding within the East of England regional funding allocation for major transport schemes. The council would then need to submit a detailed major scheme business case for the scheme, in line with departmental guidance, for consideration and assessment by the Department.

Roads: Essex

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will place in the Library a copy of the letter which the Highways Agency received from Essex police in support of the 70 mph speed limit at the Asda roundabout approach road A1089 and which is referred to in the letter sent on 21 June 2007 by Francis Cluett, Area Performance Manager, Traffic Operations South East of the Highways Agency to the hon. Member for Thurrock. [161432]

Mr. Tom Harris: I will be putting a copy in the House Library today.

Roads: Finance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much her Department spent on road *(a)* building and *(b)* improvements in each of the last 10 years; [160513]

(2) how much was ring-fenced by her Department for road projects over the last 10 years; and what projects were included. [160514]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The available expenditure data do not enable new road construction to be identified as a separate category. Expenditure prior to 2001-02 solely by the Department for Transport is also not available. The total expenditure on road infrastructure in Great Britain by central and local government from 1995-96 to 2005-06, the latest date for which figures are available, is given in the following table together with the figures on English strategic roads from 2002-03.

Investment in road infrastructure[1]

£ million

	Total Great Britain	Strategic roads in England
1995-96	4,330.0	—
1996-97	3,958.0	—
1997-98	3,518.0	—
1998-99	3,234.5	—
1999-2000	3,134.3	—
2000-01	3,390.8	—
2001-02	3,687.8	607.0
2002-03	3,955.0	735.9
2003-04	3,621.0	438.9
2004-05	4,126.0	611.1
2005-06	4,406.0	753.3
2006-07	[2]—	1,116.0

[1] Includes some private investment in road infrastructure, using private public finance contracts.
[2] Not yet available.
Note:
These figures cover new construction, improvements and structural maintenance and exclude routine maintenance.
Sources:
Central and Local Government expenditure in England, Scotland and Wales

Funds are allocated to the Highways Agency annually for major road projects and to local authorities for specific schemes. Details of schemes are available in the Highways Agency's annual business plans and in local transport plan settlement letters issued to local authorities. These documents are available online and also in the Libraries of the House.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been allocated to road *(a)* building, *(b)* improvements, *(c)* pricing and *(d)* other projects as a result of the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) 2007; and which projects are the result of CSR 2007 decisions. [160515]

Mr. Tom Harris: A detailed breakdown of programme budgets within the Department for Transport covering the three years of the CSR has not yet been made; an announcement will be made in due course.

Roads: Tolls

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department has spent on a possible national road pricing scheme; and how many *(a)* departmental staff and *(b)* external consultants have worked on her Department's road pricing policy. [159129]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In response to the first part of the question, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for South Thanet (Dr. Ladyman), the then Minister for Transport, to the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling) on 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1273W (UIN 141864).

As for numbers of staff and external consultants working on road pricing, I would also refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1273W (UIN 141863). There have been minor fluctuations in these numbers with normal turnover of personnel but they remain a fair representation of the size of the road pricing team.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether her Department plans to take forward lorry road user charging independently of a national road pricing scheme; how much her Department has spent on a possible lorry road user charging scheme; and how many *(a)* departmental staff and *(b)* external consultants have worked on proposals for lorry road user charging. [159130]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell (Chris Grayling) by my hon. Friend the Member for South Thanet (Dr. Ladyman), the then Minister for Transport, on 21 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 2114W (UIN 141858) and by the then Financial Secretary, the hon. Member for Wentworth (John Healey) on 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 521W (UIN141857).

Rolling Stock: Age

Mr. Clelland: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average age is of rolling stock fleet allocated to *(a)* each of the current rail franchises and *(b)* the Tyne and Wear Metro; and what the expected average age is of such rolling stock by 2013 in each case. [161660]

Mr. Tom Harris: Details of the current average age of the UK rolling stock fleet by sector are published by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) in 'National Rail Trends' and available on the ORR website (www.rail-reg.gov.uk). Equivalent figures for 2013 are not available although the Department intends shortly to publish a rolling stock plan. Information about the Tyne and Wear Metro is a matter for Nexus.

Shipping: Radio Frequencies

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on the potential impact of the sale of spectrum access on *(a)* British ports and *(b)* British shipping and freight companies. [160526]

Jim Fitzpatrick: None. However, officials from the Department and the Maritime and Coastguard Agency continue to discuss these matters regularly with officials from DBERR (who, with MOD, jointly chair the UK Spectrum Steering Group) and Ofcom, most recently in the context of the Ofcom consultation, "Spectrum Framework Review: The Public Sector".

Taxis: Licensing

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what estimate she has made of the number of private hire vehicles that will apply for a special restricted PSV operator's licence if Clause 26 of the draft Local Transport Bill becomes law; [157990]

(2) what discussions she and officials from her Department had with representatives of the licensed taxi or licensed minicab sector before including Clause 26 in the draft Local Transport Bill; and if she will make a statement; [157991]

(3) how many responses to the consultation on the draft Local Transport Bill, referred to Clause 26 of the draft Bill; and how many of them *(a)* supported and *(b)* opposed the proposals in the clause. [157992]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The decision to include clause 26 in the draft Local Transport Bill was prompted by a recommendation of the Bus Partnership Forum's Innovation and Inclusion Task and Finish Group. The recommendation that holders of private hire vehicle (PHV) licences should be allowed to obtain a special public service vehicle operator's licence to provide local bus services, in the same way as licensed taxis can do already, was seen as giving added flexibility to meet local transport needs, particularly in rural areas.

In the knowledge that there would be full consultation on the draft Bill, clause 26 was not discussed specifically with the taxi and PHV trades before being included in the draft Bill. We have received a small number of representations—both for and against the proposal. Those against the proposal referred in particular to the particular circumstances of PHV operation in London. We are now considering all the responses as part of the post-consultation analysis process which will determine the final content of the Bill.

We have made no estimate of the potential uptake of the proposal, but expect it to be relatively modest (in line with the use made of the existing power for taxis to provide local bus services). The proposal is simply intended to give PHV owners an added flexibility where they see an opportunity to use it. We would expect the provision to be of more value in rural areas where a smaller vehicle might be more cost-effective on a particular route.

Tolls

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to ensure the inter-operability of local congestion charging schemes. [160112]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Government intend to ensure that local schemes are interoperable, so that road users who wish to do so can use different schemes with just one account and one electronic fee collection device. The Government hope to encourage all local schemes to facilitate such a situation voluntarily, but the Draft Local Transport Bill includes provisions that would allow the Government to regulate, if necessary, to ensure that this happens in England. Consultation on the draft Bill closed on 7 September and the Department will be announcing its conclusions shortly.

Transport: Finance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much transport funding made available in the pre-Budget report and Comprehensive Spending Review will be spent on projects which have not yet been announced; and how much funding made available in the Review has been ring-fenced for existing or previously announced projects. [159200]

Mr. Tom Harris: A detailed breakdown of programme budgets within the Department for Transport covering the three years of the CSR has not yet been made; an announcement will be made in due course.

Waterloo Station

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport to what use the Eurostar platforms and facilities at Waterloo will be put after the opening of the new terminal at St Pancras; and if she will make a statement. [159194]

Mr. Tom Harris: Officials at the Department for Transport are continuing to work closely with Network Rail and Stagecoach South West Trains (the train operating company) to finalise the design and costs associated with the partial conversion of Waterloo International potentially to accommodate limited domestic passenger services from December 2008.

Options for the medium to long term use of the platforms are being assessed by officials and Network Rail as part of a wider strategy for the upgrade of Waterloo Station as described in the adjournment debate in March 2007.

TREASURY

Abortion

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the ratio of abortion to conception was for *(a)* women under 20 and *(b)* all women in the two years for which figures are available. [161578]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the ratio of abortion to conception was (a) for women under 20 and (b) for the whole population for the two most recent years for which statistics are available. (161578)

ONS routinely publishes figures on the percentage of conceptions leading to abortion by age of woman and not the ratios.

The table below shows the percentage of conceptions leading to abortion (a) for women under 20 and (b) for the whole population in England and Wales, 2004-2005 (the most recent years for which figures are available). Figures for 2005 are provisional.

Available figures are estimates of the number of conceptions that resulted in a live birth, stillbirth or legal termination.

Percentage of conceptions leading to legal abortion by age of woman in England and Wales

	Percentage leading to legal abortion[1]	
Age at conception	2004	2005[2]
Under 20	40	40
All ages	22	22

1 Legal terminations under the 1967 Abortion Act.
2 Figures for 2005 are provisional.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate has been made of the number of deaths caused by *(a)* alcohol misuse and *(b)* drug misuse in England and Wales in each of the last five years. [161118]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 29 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking what estimate has been made of the number of deaths caused by (a) alcohol misuse and (b) drug misuse in England and Wales in each of the last five years. I am replying in her absence. (161118)

The latest year for which figures are available is 2006 for alcohol-related deaths. Table 1 below presents the number of deaths from alcohol-related causes in England and Wales for 2002-2006.

ONS reports annually on deaths related to drug poisoning and drug misuse in England and Wales. The latest available results are for 2005 and figures from 1993-2005 can be found in Health Statistics Quarterly,[1] copies of which are available in the House of Commons Library. The figures are also available on the National Statistics website.[2] Table 2 below shows the number of deaths for which the underlying cause was drug poisoning, where any drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act was mentioned on the death certificate, for 2001-2005.

[1] Office for National Statistics (2007) Report: Deaths related to drug poisoning: England and Wales, 1993-2005. 'Health Statistics Quarterly 33', 82-88. Table 3: Number of deaths related to drug misuse: by sex and country, 1993-2005.

[2] Data available to download at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Expodata/Spreadsheets/D7892.xls

Table 1: Deaths from alcohol-related causes,[1] England and Wales, 2002-06[2]

	Number of deaths
2002	5,976
2003	6,425
2004	6,488
2005	6,627
2006	6,964

[1] Selected using the National Statistics definition of alcohol-related deaths. The International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes for the definition are listed below:
F10—Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol
G31.2—Denegration of nervous system due to alcohol
G62.1—Alcoholic polyneuropathy
142.6—Alcoholic cardiomyopathy
K29.2—Alcoholic gastritis
K70—Alcoholic liver disease
K73—Chronic hepatitis, not elsewhere classified
K74—Fibrosis and cirrhosis of liver (excluding K74.3-K74.5—billiary cirrhosis)
K86.0—Alcohol induced pancreatitis
X45—Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol
X65—Intentional self-poisoning by and exposure to alcohol
Y15—Poisoning by and exposure to alcohol, undetermined intent
[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 2: Deaths from drug misuse,[1] England and Wales, 2001-05[2]

	Number of deaths
2001	1,805
2002	1,613
2003	1,431
2004	1,495
2005	1,608

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes F11-F16, F18-F19, X40-X44, X60-X64, X85 and Y10-Y14 and where a drug controlled under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 was mentioned on the death record.
[2] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Banks

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether it is his Department's policy to guarantee retail deposits held by UK citizens with banks operating in the UK but which are not British-owned or operating as British subsidiaries. [156043]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 10 October 2007]:* A bank authorised to operate in the UK by virtue of its authorisation by the regulator in an EEA member state with a branch in the UK may elect to participate in the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) if the scope or level (including percentage) of the protection afforded to depositors by the FSCS exceeds that afforded by the deposit-guarantee scheme in its home state. If the bank does not elect to participate in the FSCS or the protection afforded to depositors by its home state deposit-guarantee scheme exceeds that afforded by the FSCS, or the bank does not have a branch in the UK, UK depositors will be protected by the deposit-guarantee scheme in the home member state.

A foreign bank whose home state is outside the EEA with a branch in the UK will need to be authorised under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 and must participate in the FSCS. UK depositors with a foreign bank from outside the EEA which does not have a branch in the UK will not be protected by the FSCS but may be afforded some protection by any home state deposit guarantee scheme, subject to the provisions of local law.

A UK subsidiary of a foreign bank which accepts deposits will need to be authorised under the Financial Services and Markets Act and must participate in the FSCS, irrespective of the home state of the foreign owner.

Breast Cancer: East Midlands

Mr. Skinner: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases of breast cancer were *(a)* diagnosed and *(b)* cured in the East Midlands in each of the last 10 years. [161439]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 29 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many cases of breast cancer have been *(a)* diagnosed and *(b)* cured in the East Midlands in each of the last 10 years. (161439)

Numbers of newly diagnosed cases of breast cancers registered in the East Midlands government office region between 1995 and 2004 (the latest year for which figures are available) are given in Table 1 below.

It is not possible to say whether or not patients are cured. For most cancers, but not breast, five-year survival rates are often taken to be 'cure' rates.

Long-term Breast Cancer Survival for government office regions, up to 2003 are available on the NS website at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14172&More=n and are given in Table 2 below for the East Midlands.

Five-year age-standardised relative survival (%) from breast cancer in the East Midlands government office region for patients diagnosed between 1994-96 and 1997-99 and followed up between the ends of 2001 and 2004 are given in Table 3 below.

Table 1: Newly diagnosed cases of breast cancers[1] registered in the East Midlands, females, 1995 to 2004

	Number
1995	2,489
1996	2,602
1997	2,640
1998	2,784
1999	2,962
2000	2,910
2001	2,874
2002	2,976
2003	3,239
2004	3,521

[1] 'Breast cancer' is defined by codes C50 in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD 10).

Source:
Office for National Statistics Years 2000-04—Table 4 'Cancer Statistics: Registrations, England' series MB1. http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=8843&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=272

Table 2: Breast Cancer—Predicted long-term relative survival[1] (percentage) for the East Midlands, women aged 15 to 99 years at diagnosis (age-standardised[2])

	Number/Percentage
Women	22,159
Deaths	3,158
Duration of survival	
One year	94
Five years	80
10 years	70
15 years	66

Women = Number of women included in the analyses. Deaths = Number of deaths occurring among these women during the stated period.

[1] Period approach (2001-03).

[2] Age-standardisation with age-specific weights given by the proportions of women diagnosed with breast cancer in England and Wales during 1986-90 in each of six age groups (15 to 39, 40 to 49, 50 to 59, 60- to 69, 70 to 79, 80 to 99 years).

Source:
Office for National Statistics.

Table 3: Five-year age-standardised relative survival (percentage) from breast cancer in women aged 15 to 99 for the East Midlands

	Survival (percentage)
Patients diagnosed in 1997-99 and followed up to 31 December 2004	77
Patients diagnosed in 1995-97 and followed up to 31 December 2002	73
Patients diagnosed in 1994-96 and followed up to 31 December 2001	74

Source:
Office for National Statistics. http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=11991&Pos=2&ColRank=1&Rank=272

Capital Gains Tax

Mr. Spring: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the net effect on revenues to the Exchequer would have been of reforming capital gains tax taper

relief for business assets so that the proportion of gains chargeable was 100 per cent. after two years or less, 90 per cent. after three years, 80 per cent. after four years, 70 per cent. after five years, 60 per cent. after six years and 50 per cent. after seven years or more in the most recent year for which figures are available; [155848]

(2) what the net effect on revenues to the Exchequer would have been of reforming capital gains tax taper relief for non-business assets so that the proportion of gains chargeable was 100 per cent. after two years or less, 90 per cent. after three years, 80 per cent. after four years, 70 per cent. after five years, 60 per cent. after six years and 50 per cent. after seven years or more in the most recent year for which figures are available; [155849]

(3) what proportion of the cost of capital gains tax taper relief was due to *(a)* business assets and *(b)* non-business assets in the most recent year for which figures are available. [155850]

Jane Kennedy: The estimated effects on revenues to the Exchequer of suggested reforms to capital gains tax taper relief for business and non-business assets are given in the following table. The estimates are given on the assumption that the new regime had been introduced in April 2007 and take account of the estimated impact of behavioural responses to changes in taxation regime. As the initial behavioural response is assumed to be greater than that in subsequent years, figures are provided for 2008-09 as well as 2007-08. These estimates are calculated on the basis of changes to the current regime and take no account of capital gains tax reforms announced at PBR 2007.

Estimated effect on the Exchequer

	£ million accruals yield/cost(-)	
Description of taper relief regime	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Business assets taper 100 per cent. after two years, 90 per cent. after three years, 80 per cent. after four years, 70 per cent. after five years, 60 per cent. after six years, 50 per cent. after seven years or more	1,300	1,500
Non-business assets taper 100 per cent. after two years, 90 per cent. after three years, 80 per cent. after four years, 70 per cent. after five years, 60 per cent. after six years, 50 per cent. after seven years or more	-400	-400

The split of the existing capital gains tax taper relief by type of asset, consistent with the total figures published in table 7 of the 2007 Tax Ready Reckoner, is as follows.

2007-08	*Percentage*
Business assets	77
Non-business assets	23

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost was of *(a)* taper relief for (i) business and (ii) non-business assets and *(b)* indexation allowance and rebasing to March 1982 in the last year for which data are available. [160601]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested was recently published in HM Treasury's tax ready reckoner—"2007 tax ready reckoner and tax reliefs" and is available in the House of Commons Library and on the HMT website.

The cost of taper relief due to business and non-business assets for 2007-08 is estimated to be as follows:

	£ million
Business	5550
Non-business	1650

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how much was collected in capital gains tax from business assets held *(a)* for one year or less, *(b)* between one and two years and *(c)* for two years or more in the last year for which data are available; [160602]

(2) how much was collected in capital gains tax on non-business assets held *(a)* for one year or less, *(b)* between one and two years, *(c)* between two and three years, *(d)* between three and four years, *(e)* between four and five years, *(f)* between five and six years, *(g)* between six and seven years, *(h)* between seven and eight years, *(i)* between eight and nine years, *(j)* between nine and 10 years and *(k)* 10 years or more in the last year for which data are available. [160604]

Jane Kennedy: The breakdowns requested are not available. Estimates of the amount of declared gains, before and after taper relief, for business and non-business assets by holding period are available in National Statistics Table 14.9 for tax year 2004-05 on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/capital_gains/menu.htm

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on revenue of his recently announced *(a)* abolition of taper relief for (i) business and (ii) non-business assets, *(b)* change in the headline rate to 18 per cent. for (A) business and (B) non-business assets and *(c)* abolition of indexation allowance and rebasing to March 1982 in (1) 2008-09, (2) 2009-10 and (3) 2010-11. [160603]

Jane Kennedy: The total estimated cost of the reforms announced are published in table 1.2 of the 2007 pre-Budget report. This was arrived at by considering the impact of the various elements of the reform in combination. Since all components are inter-related, it is not possible to break the figures down into constituent parts.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the revenue yield from taxing all capital gains at the same rate as marginal income, with a capital gains tax de minimis allowance of £1,000 per annum; and if he will make a statement. [160670]

Jane Kennedy: The revenue yield from taxing all capital gains above an annual exempt amount of £1,000 at income tax rates without applying taper relief and indexation allowance would be of the order of

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

Arrests

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Royal Navy—Pinch point

	Percentage of current (1 July) population breaching harmony guidelines	*Voluntary outflow rates over last 12 months*[1]
Strategic Weapons Systems Junior Ranks	0.0	3.3
Nuclear Watchkeepers	0.0	2.7

[1] Voluntary outflow rates based as percentage of average population over period 1 July 2006 to 1 July 2007.

Army—Pinch point—Summary over 30 months

Trade	*Percentage of strength over individual harmony guidelines as at January 2007*	*Voluntary outflow rates as at February 2007 (12 February2006 to 12 February 2007)*
UK Trained Army Personnel		
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Vehicle Mechanic 1	33.5	5.8
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Recovery Mechanic	31.2	5.7
Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers Armourer	26.9	5.1
Royal Engineers Clerk of Works	17.1	1.8
Army Medical Service—General Surgeon	16.7	0.0
Royal Engineers Mechanical Engineer Fitter	14.0	8.2
Royal Logistics Corps Ammunition Technician	13.6	4.2
Royal Logistic Corps—Postal and Courier Operator	11.6	5.9
Royal Logistics Corps Movement Controller	11.0	2.9
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps—Radiographer	10.0	10.4
Royal Engineers Military Engineer Geographic	8.9	5.8
Intelligence Operational Military Intelligence	8.6	5.0
Royal Engineers Explosive Ordnance Disposal 2	8.2	3.8
Royal Signals Information Systems Engineer	7.6	3.7
Royal Engineers Command, Control and Communications Systems	7.6	9.5
Army Medical Service—General Medical Practitioner	5.1	5.8
Royal Logistics Corps Chef	4.8	2.5
Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps Operation Department Practitioner	3.7	3.6
Royal Logistics Corps Petroleum Operator	3.6	6.3
Army Medical Service—General Duties Nurse Soldier	3.4	10.3
Royal Artillery—Operator Unmanned Aerial Vehicle	1.1	10.9
Army Medical Service—Nurse Officer	0.8	8.5
Army Medical Service—A&E Nurse Officer	0.0	0.0
Army Medical Service—Anaesthetist	0.0	0.0
Army Medical Service—Radiologist	0.0	0.0
Army Medical Service—Orthopaedic Surgeon	0.0	0.0
Army Medical Service—Intensive Therapy Unit Nurse Officer	0.0	0.0

RAF—Operational pinch point

Trade	*Separated Service*[1] *as at 1 May 2007*	*Voluntary outflow rates as at 1 May 2007*
Medical	9.9	2.3
Operational Support (Intelligence)	9.2	2.1
Operational Support (RAF Regiment)	20.4	2.7
Operational Support (Provost/Security)	11.9	5.1
Princess Mary's RAF Nursing Service	10.0	2.3
Weapons Support (Air Load Master)	4.4	0.6
Weapons Support (Linguist)	6.5	0.0
Air Traffic Control—Sergeant	3.2	2.3
Flight Operations Manager/Flight Operations Assistant—Sergeant	4.4	4.8
Firefighter	12.1	10.6
Gunner	22.2	5.3
Movements Operations/Controller	8.6	3.4
Motor Transport Technician	14.1	2.5

RAF—Operational pinch point

Trade	Separated Service[1] as at 1 May 2007	Percentage Voluntary outflow rates as at 1 May 2007
RAF Police	10.8	4.2
Staff Nurse (RGN) A&E	8.3	6.4

[1] The percentage of personnel within that trade that have completed more than 125 days separated service on operational deployments.

Armed Forces: Fees and Charges

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether *(a)* officers and *(b)* sergeants on six-month operational tours have to pay a UK mess bill. [157166]

Derek Twigg: Queen's Regulations require Army officers and non-commissioned personnel in the rank of sergeant and above to be mess members at all times. This includes those on Operations. As such, they continue to pay a monthly subscription fee to their UK mess to cover the fixed overheads which arise irrespective of whether mess members are deployed e.g. staff costs and utilities.

Armed Forces: Fund Raising

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether Defence Estates charges commission on the proceeds of fundraising activities undertaken by forces families conducted within the curtilage of its properties; and if he will make a statement. [156837]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 11 October 2007]:* Defence Estates (DE) does not levy any charges against the proceeds of fundraising activities. However, where publicly funded estate facilities are used in support of the fundraising activities, DE is required to assess and recover a charge based on the Department's costs. It is common for these costs to be settled by organisers from the proceeds of the activity.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* actual strength, *(b)* establishment and *(c)* percentage difference between establishment and actual strength is of each specialty of qualified medical personnel in the Army. [158364]

Derek Twigg: The following table shows the Army and tri-service requirement for each speciality of medical personnel set against the actual number of trained strength and the percentage difference. This is the endorsed Defence Medical Services manpower requirement announced to Parliament on 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 74WS.

There is no question of British forces deploying on military operations without the appropriate medical support. While shortfalls exist in some specialties, they have never resulted in the Defence Medical Services being unable to meet operational commitments. We manage medical deployments on a tri-service basis, allowing the work load to be shared more evenly and maximising capabilities. In addition we make use of reserves and civilian agency contractors and work closely with allies to ensure appropriate medical support is in place.

	Army			Tri-service		
Speciality	Requirement[1]	Trained strength[2]	Percentage difference	Requirement	Trained strength[3]	Percentage difference
Anaesthetists	50	20	-60.0	97	46	-52.6
Aviation Medicine	0	0	0.0	7	2	-71 A
General Physician	13	8	-38.5	29	16	-44.8
Dermatology	3	1	-66.7	3	1	-66.7
Emergency Medicine	24	11	-54.2	30	16	-46.7
Genitourinary Medicine	3	1	-66.7	3	1	-66.7
Neurologist	3	—	-100.0	3	1	-66.7
Radiologists	4	1	-75.0	6	6	0.0
Rehabilitation Medicine	6	3	-50.0	12	5	-58.3
General Surgeons	17	10	-41.2	39	20	-48.7
Burns and Plastic Surgeons	3	4	+33.3	6	6	0.0
Ear Nose and Throat Surgeons	2	3	+50.0	5	7	+40.0
Gynaecological Surgeons	3	0	-100.0	3	0	100.0
Maxillofacial Surgeons	5	4	-20.0	9	7	-22.2
Neurosurgeons	3	0	-100.0	3	0	-100.0
Ophthalmologic Surgeons	3	3	0.0	5	5	0.0
Orthopaedic Surgeons	14	7	-50.0	28	21	-25.0
Pathologists	2	0	-100.0	7	2	-71.4
Haematology	3	0	-100.0	3	0	-100.0
Microbiology	3	0	-100.0	4	1	-75.0
Psychiatrists	16	6	-62.5	28	13	-53.6
Paediatrics	0	1	+100.0	0	1	+100.0

Speciality	Army Requirement[1]	Army Trained strength[2]	Army Percentage difference	Tri-service Requirement	Tri-service Trained strength[3]	Tri-service Percentage difference
Urology	0	0	0.0	0	1	+100.0
Occupational Medicine	12	18	+50.0	32	34	+6.3
Diving	0	0	0.0	4	3	-25.0
Radiation	0	0	0.0	3	3	0.0
Aviation (RN and Army)	9	5	-44.4	13	9	-30.8
Public Health	5	7	+40.0	6	11	+83.0
General Medical Practitioner	155	155	0.0	321	296	-7.8
GDMO	68	100	+47.1	107	100	-6.5
Dentist	136	128	-5.9	249	244	-2.0

[1] Requirement figure includes command and staff and manning and training margin (MTM)
[2] Source data—Defence Medical Services Quarterly manning returns 1 April 2007
[3] Includes qualified medical personnel who are in career directed professional training

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many beds in military wards and hospitals there were in each month since May 1997; and how many of those were occupied by military personnel injured in the line of duty in each of those months. [158381]

Derek Twigg: The 1994 Defence Costs Study led to the closure of all the UK's military hospitals, with the exception of the Royal Hospital Haslar (which is now no longer a military unit). In May 1997, the only other remaining military hospital in the UK was the Duchess of Kent Military Hospital in Catterick (which closed as a centre for physical injuries and illnesses in 1999). The majority of patients treated at all the UK's military hospitals were civilians.

Records are not held centrally of where military patients are being treated on any one day: figures could be obtained only by contacting each individual Service unit, which would entail disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Housing

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answers of 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1608W, on armed forces: housing, how many *(a)* service family accommodations and *(b)* single living accommodations in (i) Cyprus, (ii) Gibraltar and (iii) Germany are in each Standard for Condition category. [156961]

Derek Twigg: Service Families Accommodation (SFA) and Single Living Accommodation (SLA) in Cyprus, Gibraltar and Germany are all assessed by Grade for Charge rather than Standard for Condition. Grade for Charge takes into account condition but also reflects other factors such as location and closeness to amenities.

As at October 2007, the total number of SFA by Grade is as follows:

Grade	Cyprus	Gibraltar	Germany
1	0	82	2,069
2	504	66	5,130
3	140	90	4,622
4	1,187	239	1,219
Total	2,233	477	13,040

As at October 2007, the total number of SLA by Grade is as follows:

Grade	Cyprus	Gibraltar	Germany
1	60	6	1,643
2	0	90	1,316
3	423	0	3,434
4	2,789	462	9,623
Total	3,272	558	16,016

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1608W, on armed forces: housing, what the criteria are for classification within each Grade for Change category. [156962]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) 4-tier grading (4TG) system provides a means of determining accommodation charges for differing standards of service family accommodation (SFA) and single living accommodation (SLA) across the estate. A number of criteria are assessed, relating to scaling, condition, provision of key local amenities and environmental factors. Accommodation charges for grades 1-4 are set by the Armed Forces' Pay Review Body.

It is a condition of service in recognition of their inherently mobile lifestyles, frequently remote bases and terms of service that regular service personnel are provided with a satisfactory standard of accommodation either at, or within an appropriate distance from their duty unit. Where a standard is not, or cannot be met, the deficiency is awarded a number of deficiency points. Such points determine the grade for charge as described in the following table:

Net overall points score (deficiency points)	Accommodation grade
0-4	1
5-9	2
10-14	3
15-25	4

In a limited number of cases, where the specification of accommodation (principally arising from new build projects) is exceptionally high, positive points may be awarded to offset deficiency points for a balanced and fair grading to be determined.

Deficiency and positive points are determined as follows:

	Points scored
Scaling related deficiencies	
Reduced floor area	5-10
Rooms below scale	[1]2
Space to accommodate scaled furniture items	[1]3, [2]9
Access to main bathroom or only WC	5
Lifts—multi storey buildings	[2]5
Scaling of fixtures and fittings	1-5
Condition related deficiencies	
Condition of structure	0.5-3
Condition of decoration, carpets, fixtures and fittings	1-2
Damp	[2]5
Loft insulation	1
Double/secondary glazing	[2]5
Heating	[2]5
Utility usage above the normal assumed consumption	5
Air conditioning (tropical/sub tropical areas only where such systems exist)	[2]5
Non property related factors	
Reasonable access to essential amenities	[2]5
Environmental factors	1-5
Positive facilities recognised in grading regime	
En-suite facilities	2
Additional WC to scale	1
Utility room	2

[1] Per room
[2] Maximum

Accommodation is subject to a rolling audit programme under which it should be reviewed by a grading board at least once every four years, or on completion of significant improvement work. An occupant can challenge the grading of their accommodation at initial occupancy if they believe an error has been made.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on substitute services accommodation in each year since 2002. [158375]

Derek Twigg: The amount spent on substitute service family accommodation (SSFA) and substitute single service accommodation (SSSA) is shown in the following table.

	SSSA	SSFA	£ million Total
2002	26.5	8.9	35.4
2003	28.8	9.1	37.9
2004	32.9	11.0	43.9
2005	36.8	13.0	49.8
2006	40.5	15.0	55.5
2007 (YTD)	36.5	11.0	47.5
Totals	202.0	68.0	270.0

The MOD is required to accommodate entitled personnel within 10 miles of their duty station (or 20 miles with permission of their Service Commander). Where no suitable service family accommodation (SFA) can be found, SSFA is offered within the appropriate distance from a duty station. Given the likely disruption to dependants if there were frequent moves, personnel allocated SSFA are entitled to retain it for the duration of their tour.

SSSA is granted to entitled personnel requiring single accommodation when single living accommodation (SLA) is not available at or close to an individual's place of work. Wherever possible, Defence Estates uses vacant SFA to meet demands for SLA.

Armed Forces: Manpower

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the cost to his Department if all three services were at their target manning liability. [160028]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 22 October 2007]:* The pay bill for Service manpower for financial year 2007-08 is estimated to be some £6.7 billion. As at 1 April 2007, the net additional cost if all three Services had been at their target manning liability would have been £59 million per year, or less than one per cent. of the overall pay bill.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the required liability of all three services would have needed to be for Harmony guidelines to have been met since January 2006. [160029]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 22 October 2007]:* It is not possible to quantify what liability would have been needed for all three Services to maintain all personnel within harmony guidelines. This is because of a number of factors:

a. There are two sets of Harmony Guidelines. Unit harmony is applied to units—such as a ship or an infantry battalion—and governs our force structure. Individual harmony is intended to indicate the degree of turbulence experienced by individuals due to their service in the armed forces and acknowledges that people move between units.

b. Due to the particular requirements of operational commitments, at any given time some units may fail to achieve their harmony guidelines while others will not be in such demand and therefore exceed their harmony guidelines. It is therefore perfectly possible to have the required number of people overall in the Services, but face specific shortfalls in certain specialisations. The MOD actively manages such 'pinch points' and has re-roled some units to attempt to mitigate some of the more acute harmony shortfalls.

c. The MOD focuses its effort on, wherever possible, seeking to head off harmony problems before they arise, by looking ahead into the mid-term. As a result, detailed management information on historic harmony achievement is not available. This means it is not possible to produce an extrapolation of the number of additional people required to deliver harmony guidelines.

Armed Forces: Members

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what guidance has been given to regimental commanding officers about the circumstances in which they may speak to their constituency hon. Members; [160460]

(2) whether Army officers are required to seek permission from his Department before holding discussions with hon. and right hon. Members. [160470]

Derek Twigg: Guidance for regimental commanding officers, and all other members of the Army about speaking to a Member of Parliament (MP) is contained within Queen's Regulations. These require permission to be sought via the Chain of Command, appropriate MOD officials and Ministers for discussions about Army or defence-related issues. Members of the Army do, however, have the same rights as any member of the public to speak to their constituency MP at any time about a private life matter.

Armed Forces: Multiple Sclerosis

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* serving and *(b)* retired service personnel suffering from Multiple Sclerosis have Multiple Sclerosis (i) wholly and (ii) partially attributable to their work in the armed forces. [159140]

Derek Twigg: Multiple Sclerosis is a disorder whose cause is currently unknown. There is no published peer-reviewed scientific or medical evidence to suggest any link with particular occupations including between any factor of service in the armed forces and development of Multiple Sclerosis.

Information is not held centrally as to the total number of serving and retired service personnel suffering from Multiple Sclerosis and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Records do however show that there are 380 former service personnel currently in receipt of a war disablement pension under the War Pension Scheme (WPS), with an accepted claim for Multiple Sclerosis. The records do not identify when these pensioners were diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis or whether it was the reason for their discharge.

The WPS provides no-fault compensation for all former service personnel disabled as a result of their Service in the armed forces before 6 April 2005. Awards are made under the WPS where, on the individual case facts and under the legislation, a casual link to service can be accepted. The WPS onus and standard of proof mean that casual links may be lawfully recognised which do not reflect contemporary medical evidence. Where a disablement has clinical onset during service and leads to medical discharge, claims are automatically considered. In that situation or where a claim is made within seven years of service termination, entitlement will be certified unless it can be shown by evidence beyond reasonable doubt that service has played no part in the cause or course of the disorder. In these circumstances claims for Multiple Sclerosis may succeed on that basis.

Any service personnel who develop Multiple Sclerosis in service and are medically discharged may be entitled to ill-health benefits under the terms of their occupational pension scheme.

Information is not held centrally which can identify former service personnel released on non-medical grounds, who have subsequently been awarded war pensions for suffering the symptoms of Multiple Sclerosis while in service. To obtain the information would involve the examination of individual files which could be done only at disproportionate cost—there are currently around 178,000 people in receipt of a war disablement pension.

No service personnel have been diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis and awarded attributable benefits under the Armed Forces Compensation Scheme. Less than five service personnel have been discharged without benefits. The scheme provides no-fault compensation for all serving and former service personnel for injury/illness caused on or after 6 April 2005. It awards benefits where the evidence shows, on the balance of probabilities, that service is the predominant cause of the injury or disorder.

Armed Forces: Personnel Management

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has received on the operation of the Joint Personnel Administration; and if he will make a statement. [161411]

Derek Twigg: Since roll-out of the Joint Personnel Administration system in March 2006, 66 representations have been received from MPs in the form of ministerial correspondence.

Armed Forces: Procurement

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* lowest and *(b)* average percentage spend was of procurement projects in each category (i) A, (ii) B, (iii) C, (iv) D and (v) all categories in the financial year 2006-07. [148269]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is unclear the precise information the hon. Member is requesting, however, I am able to provide the following:

Category	*Lowest-speed (percentage)*	*Average speed (percentage)*	*Number of projects*
A	0.002	2.128	47
B	0.003	2.564	39
C	0.056	1.923	52
D	0.003	0.752	133
All	0.001	0.369	271

Armed Forces: Suicide

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many suicides there were among British armed services personnel in each of the last 10 years for which records are available, broken down by service; and if he will make a statement. [161317]

Derek Twigg: The number of coroner-confirmed suicides and open verdicts deaths that occurred among UK regular service personnel while in service during the period 1997 to 2006 is provided in the following table.

Suicides and open verdict deaths[1], UK regular armed forces, 1997 to 2006

	All	Naval Service[2]	Army	RAF
All	204	34	132	38
1997	26	4	17	5
1998	19	2	13	4
1999	27	6	17	4
2000	36	6	22	8
2001	15	2	11	2
2002	14	4	10	0
2003	25	3	15	7
2004	19	2	15	2
2005	19	5	10	4
2006[3]	4	0	2	2

[1] The figures provided do not include any violent or unnatural deaths that have not yet been fully investigated by a coroner (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) or the procurator fiscal (Scotland).
[2] Naval service includes Royal Navy and Royal Marines.
[3] The figures for 2006 are provisional as we are still awaiting the outcome of a number of Coroners' investigations.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Government plan to procure sufficient Mastiff vehicles to replace all of the Land Rovers currently in use in theatre. [158645]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* Commanders need a range of vehicles of varying protection, mobility and profile to be used as they see fit, to meet the mission and counter the threat. Mastiff fulfils a complementary role to the other vehicles we use on operations.

The additional Mastiff vehicles announced by the Prime Minister on 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 24, will provide a welcome addition to the protected patrol vehicle fleet.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Supercat MWMIK vehicle will be used on *(a)* conventional patrols and *(b)* convoy duty. [159182]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It will be for commanders on the ground to determine how new vehicles deployed on operations will be used.

By deploying a suite of new capabilities to Afghanistan and Iraq over the last year, we have provided a greater range of capabilities from which commanders can choose the most suitable vehicles for a particular task.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles: Afghanistan

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 7, on Afghanistan, on what basis the figure of 400 Mastiff vehicles was determined; and if he will make a statement. [161160]

Des Browne: The planned procurement of some 280 Mastiff vehicles, when combined with other new protected vehicles, will deliver more than 400 new protected patrol vehicles to our forces. This represents a significant investment in the protection and operational effectiveness of our troops and, coupled with the delivery of enhanced protection to our in service vehicles like Bulldog, Viking and Warrior, will provide our troops with a range of options within a fleet of over 600 vehicles.

Army Board: Uniforms

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost is of providing a dress uniform for a member of the Army Board. [154045]

Derek Twigg: There are no specific military dress requirements associated with Army Board membership. There are therefore no additional uniform costs arising from an individual's appointment to the board.

Army: Conditions of Employment

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average length of service completed by retiring Army captains was in *(a)* 2000, (b) 2003, *(c)* 2005 and *(d)* 2006. [161530]

Derek Twigg: The following table shows the average length of service completed by Direct Entry (DE) Captains on retirement from the Regular Army for each of the calendar years 2000, 2003, 2005 and 2006.

	Direct Entry
2000	6 years
2003	5 years 6 months
2005	5 years 8 months
2006	5 years 6 months

Notes:
1. The averages are based on Army Captains who have left the Army on completion of their terms of service and includes those who have outflowed to the Regular Army Reserve during the stipulated period.
2. Army Captains on a Late Entry Commission type, those who have additional Soldier service, have been excluded from these averages.
3. The figures reflect reckonable service from age 21.
4. The average time served is for UK Regular Forces which includes Nursing Services and excludes Full Time Reserve Service personnel, Gurkhas, the Home Service battalions of the Royal Irish Regiment and mobilised reservists.

Army: Drugs

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many drugs tests on Army personnel produced positive results in *(a)* January to June 2006, *(b)* July to December 2006 and *(c)* January to June 2007; and how many of those results were positive for (i) cocaine, (ii) cocaine only, (iii) cannabis, (iv) cannabis only, (v) ecstasy and (vi) ecstasy only. [161771]

Derek Twigg: The following table gives the number of drug tests showing positive results for cocaine, cannabis and ecstasy, and combinations of those drugs with others for the periods requested:

Drug Type	1 January 2006 to 30 June 2006	1 July 2006 to 31 December 2006	1 January 2007 to 30 June 2007
			Positive results
Cocaine	185	179	206
Cocaine and Ecstasy	10	23	19
Cocaine, Ecstasy and Cannabis	3	3	3
Cocaine, Ecstasy and Other	2	1	0
Cocaine and Cannabis	28	15	12
Cocaine, Cannabis and Other	1	0	1
Cocaine and Other	4	2	1
Ecstasy	31	46	50
Ecstasy and Cannabis	5	9	1
Ecstasy, Cannabis and Other	3	1	1
Ecstasy and Other	4	5	2
Cannabis	162	91	106
Cannabis and Other	2	1	2
Other	11	10	13
Total Positive Results	451	386	417

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British army personnel tested positive for single-drug-only use in *(a)* the first 120 positives tested in 2003 and *(b)* the 150 positives tested during 2006, broken down by day of the week tested. [161772]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 23 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 173W.

Army: Injuries

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel were *(a)* very seriously wounded, *(b)* seriously wounded and *(c)* wounded in action in the recent and current tours of Afghanistan of the (i) 1st Battalion Royal Anglian, (ii) 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards, (iii) 1st Battalion Scots Guards, (iv) 1st Battalion Worcester and Sherwood Foresters and (v) 1st Battalion Royal Welsh. [159181]

Des Browne: Between 1 April and 30 September 2007, these regiments sustained the following casualties:

Regiment	Wounded in action	Very seriously ill/seriously ill
1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment	33	9
1 st Battalion Grenadier Guards	19	7
1 st Battalion Scots Guards	0	0
2nd Battalion the Mercian Regiment (Worcesters and Foresters)	16	6
1st Battalion the Royal Welsh	11	1

The 1st Battalion the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment recently became the 2nd Battalion the Mercian Regiment (Worcesters and Foresters), and data have therefore been provided under the latter name.

The 1st Battalion the Royal Anglian Regiment, the 1st Battalion Grenadier Guards and the 2nd Battalion the Mercian Regiment (Worcesters and Foresters) were all deployed from April 2007. The 1st Battalion the Royal Welsh has been the Theatre Reserve Battalion since April 2007. Members of the 1st Battalion Scots Guards did not start to deploy until September 2007.

Data for those very seriously injured/wounded (VSI) or seriously injured/wounded (SI) have been aggregated for reasons of patient confidentiality. Data for those wounded in action (WIA) are collated differently, using field hospital admission data, and may or may not include those classed as VSI or SI.

The data are subject to change, pending further analysis by the Defence Analytical Services Agency.

Army: Recruitment

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) why the Army Recruiting and Training Division at Pewsey has not requested a submission or relevant medical notes from the GP of the constituent of the hon. Member for Thurrock who appealed in July against the decision to reject his application to join the Army; and if he will make a statement; [161365]

(2) when the appeal submitted in July to the Army Recruiting and Training Division at Pewsey by the constituent of the hon. Member for Thurrock against the decision to reject his application to join the Army will be held; what the cause is of the delay in *(a)* advising the appellant and *(b)* convening the appeal; and if he will make a statement; [161366]

(3) when Jodie Spreadbury of the Army Recruiting and Training Division at Pewsey expects to make a substantive reply to the letter of 12 September sent by the mother of the constituent of the hon. Member for Thurrock who has appealed against the decision to reject his application to join the Army; and if he will make a statement. [161367]

Derek Twigg: Copies of a candidate's medical documents are only requested from their GP if required. In this case, the Medical Officer at the Army Development and Selection Centre, and the Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon already had copies of the candidate's medical notes including those from hospital records. These were sufficient as the diagnosis was not in dispute and a further copy of your constituent's medical documents was not required.

The delay in providing a response to your constituent, therefore, is regretted but the delay was caused by the need to ensure your constituent's case was thoroughly researched and all factors taken into account. Unfortunately, our inquiries have only just been completed. A substantive response to the hon. Member regarding his constituent's case was sent on 26 October.

Atomic Weapons Establishment: Sales

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for The Wrekin (Mark Pritchard) of 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1247W, on the Atomic Weapons Establishment: sales, what criteria will be adopted to establish the acceptability of prospective purchasers; and which factors will be taken into account in the analysis of the acceptability of prospective purchasers. [160089]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 24 October 2007]:* The criteria for ensuring UK security in this matter are the same as those that we would employ in establishing whether we would place a contract with any company. Suitability is established through appropriate checks on corporate, financial and security matters. Security checks are carried out in accordance with the relevant requirements of Joint Service Publication (JSP) 440.

The factors that will be considered in the analysis of prospective purchasers will support our aims to ensure the protection of UK strategic interests and continued programme stability through the retention of the skills and capability that underpin the ability to manage the enduring performance of AWE plc. An exhaustive list of pre-determined factors is not available, primarily because some will arise as a consequence both of events and of the track record of the companies concerned. However, an ability to interact effectively with, and to complement the skills of, the existing consortium partners will be essential pre-requisites.

Bulford Camp: Courts Martial

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cases have been heard in each of the courtrooms at Bulford Courts Martial Centre since it was opened; and for what percentage of working time each courtroom has been unoccupied. [161078]

Derek Twigg: Bulford Military Court Centre has two court rooms. Since it began sitting in September 2006, Courtroom 1 has heard 77 cases and has never been unoccupied during working time; Courtroom 2 has heard 38 cases and has been unoccupied for 40 per cent. of working time.

Defence Equipment

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to reply to question 159871, on sleeping bags, tabled on 17 October for answer on 22 October. [161417]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I replied to the hon. Member today.

Defence Equipment: Export Controls

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons the United Kingdom does not apply re-export controls on the sale of military equipment. [153935]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* I have been asked to reply.

In assessing export licence applications, the Government do not differentiate between military equipment to be exported or re-exported from the UK. All UK export licence applications are rigorously assessed against the Consolidated EU and National Arms Export Licensing Criteria, which includes, inter alia, a thorough consideration of the risk of diversion to undesirable end-users. Should it be judged that an export would contravene any of the Criteria, the application would be refused.

The Government do not control the re-export of military equipment once it has been exported from the UK. The control of military goods once they have been exported from the UK to a licensed end-user would require UK export controls to be enforced exterritorialy within another country's jurisdiction. The Government are opposed to this approach, and believe that its current approach, based on a rigorous risk assessment at the pre-licensing stage, to be a more effective means of guarding against the risk of military equipment falling into the hands of an undesirable end-user. In addition it would be difficult to enforce extraterritorial controls once the goods have left UK jurisdiction.

Defence Estates: Sales

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was realised from the sale of defence estate property in each of the last 10 years for which records are available. [161315]

Derek Twigg: The accrued receipts relating to the disposal of surplus defence estates property for each financial year is shown in the following table:

Financial year	*£ million*
1998-99	59
1999-2000	301
2000-01	225
2001-02	185
2002-03	279
2003-04	207
2004-05	212
2005-06	258
2006-07	394

Defence Export Services Organisation: Resignations

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many employees from the Defence Exports Service Organisation have *(a)* left voluntarily and *(b)* been made redundant since 25 July 2007. [160061]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Between 25 July and 12 October 2007, 33 employees left the Defence Export Services Organisation (DESO). None of these was made redundant, and the majority left to take up another position in the Ministry of Defence or the armed forces, having served their tour of duty in DESO.

Defence: Exports

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he was informed of the Prime Minister's decision to close the Defence Exports Services Organisation and to move part of its remit to the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. [160062]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence was consulted before the announcement was made.

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what formal consultations have taken place with union representatives concerning the decision to move responsibilities for defence exports from his Department to UK Trade and Investment. [160063]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Formal consultation with the Trade Unions has not yet begun. A number of informal discussions have taken place with Trade Union representatives.

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether military staff will be seconded to UK Trade and Investment to support defence exports following the changes announced on 25 July. [160064]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Yes.

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what consultation took place with defence exporters prior to 25 July on the decision to move responsibility for defence exports from his Department to UK Trade and Investment. [160068]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer my right hon. Friend the Defence Secretary (Des Browne) gave on 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2172W, to the hon. Member for Aldershot (Mr. Howarth).

Defence: Procurement

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what criteria his Department uses to determine which contractors submitting an expression of interest when bidding to supply an equipment programme are issued with a pre-qualification questionnaire; and if he will make a statement; [160239]

(2) what criteria his Department uses to determine which contractors submitting a pre-qualification criteria are issued with an invitation to tender; and if he will make a statement. [160240]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department conducts initial suitability assessments of suppliers who submit expressions of interest (E of I) based on supplier information and other available evidence. Often, this is insufficient to make an objective evaluation and a pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ), together with the non discriminatory criteria against which responses will be evaluated, is issued to prospective bidders. The evaluation of responses will determine eligibility against (A) a number of standard objective criteria including capability, quality, financial and legal status, organisation, and supply chain management and (B) project specific criteria pertinent to the particular requirement. Suppliers who submit an E of I and who are not invited to tender can request a de-brief.

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what proportion of offer prices quoted by contractors on DEFFORM 47s in the last two years were within *(a)* 10 per cent., *(b)* 6 per cent. and *(c)* 2 per cent. of the expenditure figure declared in the initial invitation to tender; [160241]

(2) what proportion of offer prices on equipment programmes worth more than £100 million quoted by contractors on DEFFORM 47s since 2001 were within *(a)* 10 per cent., *(b)* 6 per cent. and *(c)* 2 per cent. of the expenditure figure declared in the initial invitation to tender; [160242]

(3) what proportion of offer prices on equipment programmes quoted by contractors on DEFFORM 47s since 2001 were over the expenditure figure declared in the initial invitation to tender; [160243]

(4) if he will review the appropriateness of the process whereby his Department reveals to would-be contractors the budgeted expenditure figure or associated year-on-year financial profile when issuing invitations to tender. [160244]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: It is not normal departmental practice to provide would-be contractors with budgeted expenditure figures or associated year-on-year financial profiles when issuing an invitation to tender or invitation to negotiate.

However, within the MOD Defence Contracts Bulletin value banding information is provided to indicate the approximate value of individual requirements to be advertised as a guide to suppliers who may be considering whether to respond.

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what departmental budget items have been reclassified, under Consolidated Budgeting Guidance, following Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 decisions; and what the *(a)* former and *(b)* new (i) classification and (ii) sum budgeted is in each case. [160415]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As part of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review settlement, the Ministry of Defence has introduced an Administration Budget within its overall resource expenditure. In accordance with the Consolidated Budgeting Guidance, this establishes a separate control total for administrative expenditure, against which savings of 5 per cent. per annum in real terms must be achieved between 2008-09 and 2010-11.

The administration budget is £2.32 billion of resource expenditure, set against a 2007-08 baseline.

Departments: Art Works

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* works of art and *(b)* paintings are contained in his Department's art collection; what the cost, including staff costs, of maintaining the collection was in 2006-07; what the estimated value of the collection is; and how much was spent by his Department on purchasing works of art in each of the last five years. [160677]

Derek Twigg: There are some 1,050 items in the MOD art collection, of which 250 are antiques and the remainder works of art. The art includes 342 paintings. Other art includes watercolours and engravings, as well as some architectural drawings. Significant works are on long-term loan in various museums, in order to facilitate public access. The cost of maintaining the collection in 2006-07 was £141,000, of which £98,000 consisted of staff costs. The sum of £232,000 (excluding VAT) was spent on purchasing works of art in 2004-05, no other such expenditure was incurred during the last five years. It is not possible to provide an overall valuation for the collection; the unique nature of many items renders them invaluable, and other items, while of significant historical importance, are of very little intrinsic value.

Departments: Assets

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what departmental assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; and what the expected revenue from each such sale is. [160351]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Surplus assets are identified and disposed of as part of routine MOD business, primarily through Defence Estates and the Disposal Services Authority.

The latest published book values of MOD assets worth in excess of £1 million is set out in the National Asset Register (Cm 7022—January 2007), available on the HM Treasury website.

Information on future plans is commercially sensitive and therefore not made available until necessary. A majority of assets identified for disposal, are either marketed by the Disposal Services Agency, or for surplus Defence Estate, published on a list that is regularly updated and placed in the Library of the House. The House will also be informed of the divestment of any other significant MOD assets, such as the planned release of the electromagnetic spectrum announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Departments: Clothing

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent at Gieves and Hawkes, Savile Row, in each of the last five years; and if he will break down that expenditure by category of clothing. [154047]

Derek Twigg: Available records show the following payments made to Gieves and Hawkes, Savile Row, from 1 April 2002 to 31 July 2007.

Financial year	*£*
2002-03	—
2003-04	2,000
2004-05	3,175
2005-06	—
2006-07	—
2007-08 (up to July 2007)	—

Information on the categories of clothing is not held in the format requested.

Departments: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what efficiency savings his Department was required to make as part of its Spending Review 2004 (SR04) targets; what efficiency projects have been undertaken in the Department in pursuit of those targets; on what date each was initiated; and how much each was predicted to contribute to the SR04 target. [160552]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A breakdown of efficiency savings by programme can be found in the MOD's Efficiency Technical Note, which was published in December 2005. Revised forecasts for the end of March 2008 and achievement to the end of March 2007 were provided in the departmental Annual Report and Accounts 2006-07. Both documents can be found on the department's website at:

Efficiency Technical Note

http://www/mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/FinancialReports/ModEfficiencyTechnicalNote.htm

MOD Annual Report and Accounts

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports/MODAnnualReports0607/

The dates on which the various initiatives were started are as follows. Unless stated, this is the date when the business case was approved.

Force structure changes—July 2004, the date the "Future Capabilities" Paper was published

Joint Personnel Administration—June 2001, when the Defence Management Board approved the vision and strategy document

People Programme—July 2004, Defence Management Board strategy paper for civilian personnel

Defence Resource Management Programme—November 2003, when Treasury approved the Defence Resource Management Solution

Defence Information Infrastructure—September 2002

Equipment procurement/future capabilities—July 2004, the date the "Future Capabilities" Paper was published

Defence Logistics Transformation Programme—April 2004, the official formation date of the programme

Whole Fleet Management—February 2003

Estates Modernisation—launched in Financial Year 2002-03 following a reorganisation of Defence Estates

Travel Modernisation—November 2004

Defence Electronic Commerce System—this was identified as a key enabler for the DLO Business Strategy approved in May 2000; early work on Defence e-commerce had begun in 1996.

Other procurement—April 2003

Defence Health Change Programme—initiated following the Medical Quinquennial Review of 2001

Single Navy command—August 2004 when the merger plan was formally established

Single Air Command—June 2005, when approved by Minister (Armed Forces)

Closure of Army Technical Foundation college Arborfield—November 2003.

Departments: Disabled

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which buildings occupied by his Department *(a)* are and *(b)* are not fully accessible to disabled people; and if he will make a statement. [161165]

Derek Twigg: Given the number of buildings across the defence estate, the requested information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, all Government Departments are subject to the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 which requires them to make reasonable access arrangements for disabled people. This Department acts within the Act and Part M of the Building Regulations for England and Wales or their equivalents in Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Departments: ICT

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many new *(a)* laptops, *(b)* mobile telephones and *(c)* personal digital assistant devices his Department bought for the use of departmental Ministers following each Cabinet reshuffle since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [156737]

Derek Twigg: Since May 2005, one personal digital assistant has been bought for use by departmental Ministers. We do not hold information on expenditure prior to this date, which could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the name is of each special adviser in his Department. [153072]

Des Browne: The annual list of special adviser names will be published shortly.

Departments: Policy

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what policy changes his Department has implemented since 27 June 2007. [159289]

Derek Twigg: Ministers have kept Parliament fully informed of the many important activities and decisions that we have made since 27 June 2007 through written ministerial statements.

The written ministerial statements made by the Department up to 19 October 2007 are listed in the table as follows.

Date	*Hansard reference*	*Subject*
27 June 2007	30WS	Service Voters Survey
28 June 2007	35WS	Deepcut Review
3 July 2007	44WS	Depleted Uranium Exposure
11 July 2007	56WS	Agency Key Targets
12 July 2007	63WS	Greenhouse Gas Emissions
16 July 2007	3WS	DMETA Targets
16 July 2007	3WS	UK Gulf Veterans' Mortality Data
19 July 2007	29WS	Afghanistan Roulement
19 July 2007	33WS	Ballistic Missile Defence
19 July 2007	33WS	Gurkha Service Pensions
19 July 2007	31WS	Iraq Roulement
23 July 2007	42WS	Annual Report and Accounts 2006-07
24 July 2007	50WS	Basra International Airport
25 July 2007	71WS	Ballistic Missile Defence
25 July 2007	74WS	Future of ABRO and DARA
25 July 2007	74WS	Mental Health Statistics
25 July 2007	76WS	Nuclear Steam Raising Plant
25 July 2007	72WS	Operation Banner
25 July 2007	73WS	RAF Hercules XV206 Board of Inquiry
26 July 2007	94WS	DSDA Longtown
26 July 2007	95WS	Operational Effectiveness
12 September 2007	122WS	Project Borona
17 September 2007	125WS	Defence Relations
8 October 2007	8WS	Future Army Structure
8 October 2007	7WS	Pattern of Military Low Flying Across the United Kingdom 2006-07
8 October 2007	7WS	UK Hydrographic Office
11 October 2007	42WS	Armed Forces Compensation Scheme
19 October 2007	59WS	Airfield Review (Tertiary Airfield Support)

The Statements either re-affirmed existing policy or were not policy related.

Departments: Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many citizens' juries have been arranged by his Department since June; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the estimated cost is of each exercise. [159490]

Derek Twigg: The Department has not arranged any citizens' juries since June 2007.

Departments: Retirement

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by his Department applied to continue to work beyond state retirement age in the latest year or part thereof for which figures are available; and how many of those applications were successful. [161297]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Since the introduction of a 'national default retirement age' of 65, men and women have been able automatically to continue in employment up to this age. This means that women employed by the MOD are able routinely to work beyond the current state pension age for women of 60. Moreover, the MOD has introduced procedures which enable its civil servants to apply to work beyond 65 in accordance with the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006. Such applications are submitted to individual line managers and appeals, where they are raised, are dealt with at a more senior level within the business unit.

Departments: Scotland

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what areas of land in Scotland were sold by his Department in each of the last five years; what the use was of each area prior to sale; what revenue was received for each area of land; and if he will make a statement. [160003]

Derek Twigg: The information requested is shown in the following table:

Property in Scotland sold by defence estates—financial years 2003-04 to 2007-08

Town	*Number of properties*	*Former use*	*Value of sale (£)*
2003-04			
Auchterarder	1	ACF Centre with Land	19,747
Ayr	3	SFA	242,177
Beith	1	Agricultural land	42,000
Balivanish (Benbecula)	1	Former Camp	101,500
Caithness	1	Former Communications Site	6,000
Campbeltown	1	Former Cadet Centre	15,701
Edinburgh	1	Former TA Centre	650,000
Elgin	23	SFA	550,000
Forres	1	SFA	35,162
Helensburgh	4	SFA	220,000
Helensburgh	1	Former Site Office	202,000
Inverness	1	Surplus Land	55,781
Kinross	2	SFA	178,221
Peterhead	10	SFA	677,364
Rosyth	29	SFA incl Garage Colony	1,546,888
Total	—	—	4,542,541
2004-05			
Drumore	1	Harbour	1,000
Edinburgh	1	Former TA Centre	2,579,396
Edinburgh	1	SFA	396,277
Fairlie	1	Former NATO Depot	37,541
Falkirk	1	Former TA Centre	329,812
Forres	38	SFA incl Garage Colony	2,170,271
Fort William	1	SFA	150,500
Garelochhead	2	Land/Track	250,000
Giffnock	1	SFA	161,000
Glasgow	1	Part of Car Park	25,000
Helensburgh	4	Amenity sites incl Garage Colony	140,000
Helensburgh	1	Electricity Sub Station	3,000
Keith	1	SFA	84,000
Perth	7	SFA	1,482,735
Peterhead	28	SFA incl Garage Colony	1,763,211
Rosyth	2	SFA	117,435
Stirling	1	Former Cadet Training Camp	1,250,000
Thurso	1	SFA	56,000
Total	—	—	10,997,178
2005-06			
Carnoustie (Barry Buddon)	1	Cycle Path	4,602
Balivanish (Benbecula)	7	SFA	520,000
Balivanish (Benbecula)	1	Former NAAFI Shop and Site	123,000
Boddam	59	RAF Buchan Domestic Site Plus 58 SFA	3,776,379
Boddam	1	RAF Buchan Playing Fields	29,250
Elgin	84	SFA with Land and Garage Colony	3,358,300
Elgin	1	Grassed Area (Encroachment)	10,000
Forres	1	Gas Governor Site	300
Forres	54	SFA	4,953,825
Giffnock	5	SFA	802,000
Kinross	1	SFA	200,501
Lerwick	1	Water Pump Station	5,511
Lossiemouth	3	SFA	188,000
Peterhead	27	SFA	2,230,902
Haroldswick (Saxa Vord)	3	SFA	76,080
Thurso	1	SFA	65,000
Total	—	—	16,343,650
2006-07			
Aberdeen	2	SFA	268,564
Arbroath	6	SFA	536,636
Balivanish (Benbecula)	8	SFA	456,000
Boddam	2	SFA	275,500
Cupar	18	SFA	2,787,671
Edinburgh	26	SFA	3,209,000
Elgin	40	SFA	3,178,000
Forres	4	SFA	415,650
Garelochhead	6	SFA	924,985
Glencourse (Penicuik)	1	SFA	311,295
Haroldswick (Saxa Vord)	7	SFA	21,600
Inverness	1	Land	1,200
Irvine	76	SFA plus Amenity Land	4,835,000
Lossiemouth	1	Land	115,000

Property in Scotland sold by defence estates—financial years 2003-04 to 2007-08

Town	*Number of properties*	*Former use*	*Value of sale (£)*
Lossiemouth	4	Former DHE Offices with Garage Colony	305,000
Lossiemouth	37	SFA	2,421,912
Paisley	2	SFA	287,845
Peterhead	1	SFA	92,000
Portpatrick	1	Former Radio Station	20,000
Rosneath	1	Grass verge	13,000
Scone	3	SFA	497,331
Total	—	—	20,973,189
2007-08 to date			
Aberdeen	2	Service Family Accommodation -SFA	415,552
Arbroath	1	SFA	115,775
Arbroath	3	Garage Colony and Grassed areas	117,010
Boddam	3	SFA	343,440
Crief	1	Cultybraggan Training Camp	350,000
Cupar	14	SFA	2,316,457
Edinburgh	6	SFA	1,614,834
Elgin	1	Grassed Area	131,035
Haroldswick (Saxa Vord)	1	SFA	125,750
Haroldswick (Saxa Vord)	1	RAF site incl SFA	25,000
Inverness	2	SFA	399,300
Inverness	1	Former Community Centre	330,000
Thurso	1	SFA	92,000
Total	—	—	6,376,153
Scotland five year total	—	—	59,232,711

Departments: Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many and what percentage of questions tabled to his Department for answer on a named day received a substantive reply on the day named in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [161345]

Derek Twigg: From 1 October 2006 to 30 September 2007, 859 named day written questions were tabled to the Secretary of State for Defence of which 185 received a substantive reply on the day named.

EU Defence Policy

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on proposals to establish a European standing army; if he will make it his policy to ensure that no British service personnel could be deployed as part of that army without the approval of the UK Parliament; and if he will make a statement. [161020]

Des Browne: There is no European standing army and I have neither taken part in nor know of any recent discussions about establishing one. The United Kingdom declares a range of capabilities as potentially available for EU-led crisis management operations, but our contribution is voluntary and considered on a case by case basis in the light of other commitments. Any decision to deploy British troops for an EU-led operation continues to rest solely with the Government of the United Kingdom.

On 25 October 2007, the Ministry of Justice, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Ministry of Defence published 'The Governance of Britain' Green Paper which set out the Government's proposals to strengthen Parliament's role in the deployment of the armed forces into armed conflict abroad. The consultation period will conclude early next year.

Ex-servicemen: Health Services

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what measures he is taking to ensure that ex-service personnel receive appropriate levels of medical services and support. [158759]

Derek Twigg: Working in partnership across government, the Veterans' Programme aims for excellent public services for ex-Service personnel. Medical services are the responsibility of the NHS. As well as in-Service arrangements, the MOD/UK Health Departments Partnership Board considers medical support for successful transition to the civilian community and thereafter. NHS Priority Treatment is provided for disorders accepted as due to or made worse by, service under both the War Pensions and Armed Forces Compensation Schemes, priority being decided by the clinician in charge based on the clinical need. MOD, the health departments, NHS and the ex-Service charity 'Combat Stress' are working together on a community-based mental health service for ex-Service personnel. This will draw on a range of expertise and include personnel with a military background. The service will deliver culturally sensitive, evidence based interventions. It will be piloted at sites across UK shortly.

The Medical Assessment Programme (MAP) based at St. Thomas' hospital is now available to veterans who have been deployed on operations since 1982, and who are concerned that they may have a service related mental health problem.

Ex-servicemen: Radiation Exposure

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what payments have been made to former servicemen for adverse health effects arising from exposure to radiation from British nuclear tests in Australia and Christmas Island in the Pacific; and how many applications for compensation are under consideration. [159425]

Derek Twigg: All former service personnel who suffered injury as a result of Service prior to 6 April 2005, or their surviving spouses, may apply for a war pension or a war widow's pension, as appropriate, under the terms of the War Pension Scheme. A war pension may be payable in respect of any disablement or death due to service. There are no restrictions on the time or place of service and no time limits for making a claim under the scheme. Information on the number of

war pensions paid by location and cause of disablement is not available.

Civil proceedings were issued against the Ministry of Defence in December 2006 from the legal representatives of around 900 former service personnel who are potential claimants in a group litigation. The Department understands that the claimant's legal representatives are exploring the precise numbers who wish to proceed with the action.

Global Navigation Satellite Systems: Deer

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent by Defence Estates on providing Sika deer with global positioning system collars in the Poole basin area. [158384]

Derek Twigg: Bournemouth University, the National Trust and the British Deer Society are undertaking research on Lulworth Training Area, part of the Defence Training Estate, as a joint venture with Defence Estates (DE)—the MOD organisation with responsibility for the defence estate.

DE has contributed a total of £32,500 to the project for the purchase of 15 Global Positioning System collars and equipment. The other partners have contributed a total of £85,000 to this venture.

The numbers of Sika deer within the Lulworth Range area have been increasing. However, DE has been unable to determine whether this is due to resident herds or migration of deer from other areas which are less well managed. There is also concern about their impact on the important local habitat and potential damage claims to the MOD. The project aims to increase understanding of the issues involved.

Helicopters

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the individual cost per aircraft is of the *(a)* purchase of six Danish Merlin helicopters and *(b)* downgrading of eight Chinook helicopters. [157160]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The cost of acquiring the six Danish EH101 (Merlin) helicopters is £176 million. This figure includes the cost of converting the ex-Danish aircraft for UK operational use and the cost of procuring six replacement Merlin aircraft for Denmark. Therefore, the cost per individual aircraft equates to £29.3 million.

The cost of converting the Chinook Mk3 helicopters to the Battlefield helicopter role is being negotiated, and the costs will be fixed at Main Gate.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel who have seen service in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan have been diagnosed as suffering from a mental health condition. [154239]

Derek Twigg: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement I made on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 74-75WS.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many attacks have been made on UK forces in Iraq in each month since October 2006; [154246]

(2) how many indirect fire attacks have been made on UK bases in Iraq in each month since October 2006. [154247]

Des Browne: The following table provides an assessment of recorded attacks. Column 1 also includes attacks on our coalition partners transiting through MND(SE) area of operation. The figures do not convey the significance of each individual incident, which in both cases may range from a single shot fired at safe range through to complex coordinated attacks.

Number of attacks on UK forces in Iraq

Month	*Number of attacks on UK forces*	*Number of attacks on UK bases*
October 2006	174	80
November 2006	181	66
December 2006	259	96
January 2007	226	99
February 2007	335	97
March 2007	245	81
April 2007	223	118
May 2007	334	148
June 2007	376	163
July 2007	401	201
August 2007	190	102
September 2007	19	5

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel serving in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each of the last four years were returned to the UK for treatment to their injuries arising out of their duties for which figures are available. [156924]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 11 October 2007]:* The Defence Analytical Services Agency (DASA) is currently conducting an analysis of records of aeromedical evacuations for both Iraq and Afghanistan, with a view to releasing validated data on the Ministry of Defence website by November 2007. Until this review has been completed, the following figures are subject to future refinement and pre-2006 figures are not available.

In 2006, centrally available records show that 320 patients from Iraq and 128 patients from Afghanistan were aeromedically evacuated from theatre to the UK and transferred to a hospital. In 2007 (up to 31 August), centrally available records show that 254 patients from Iraq and 251 patients from Afghanistan were aeromedically evacuated from theatre to the UK and transferred to a hospital.

Data are not available for this period on the number of those who were discharged at the airhead but went to a medical facility other than a hospital. DASA instituted a system for tracking this information with effect from October 2007.

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he was first informed by the Prime Minister that the Prime Minister would be providing details on 1 October of the reduction in UK troop numbers in Iraq. [157087]

Des Browne *[holding answer 11 October 2007]:* I regularly discuss Iraq policy, including the timing of announcements, with my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the British Armed Forces have been assigned to the Coalition Forces Land Component Command in Kuwait since 2003, broken down by *(a)* rank and *(b)* branch. [157136]

Des Browne: We currently have one UK service person stationed with the headquarters at the Coalition Forces Land Component Command in Kuwait; a liaison officer holding the rank of lieutenant colonel. Information is not held centrally on our historic level of manning in that headquarters and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role is played by British troops deployed in Basra in respect of *(a)* escorting convoys delivering materials to the United States forces deployed around Baghdad and other areas of central and northern Iraq and *(b)* cleaning up and remediating areas contaminated by the use of depleted uranium munitions used by coalition forces. [157323]

Des Browne: UK forces deployed in Basra work in conjunction with our coalition partners and the Iraqi security forces to provide general security in the region. However, we do not escort specific convoys tasked to deliver materials to US forces in Baghdad or other areas of central and northern Iraq.

Depleted uranium munitions were expended by UK forces in Iraq only during the initial combat operations in 2003. We have worked closely with a range of scientific and humanitarian organisations and concluded that this expenditure does not pose any significant danger either to coalition forces or the general population. The Iraqi authorities have the lead in any post-conflict clean-up operations, with coalition forces providing support as necessary. UK forces have carried out ordnance disposal activities and removed surface-lying fragments of depleted uranium as and when they are discovered. We have also exchanged information with humanitarian and other organisations working in Iraq, and issued precautionary warnings through signs and leaflets, advising the local population of the more general dangers of approaching or touching any debris on a battlefield.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of the *(a)* total UK military helicopter fleet and *(b)* the helicopter fleet deployed in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan are considered (A) fit for service and (B) fit for purpose, broken down by helicopter type. [158358]

Des Browne: The percentage of the total number of military helicopters in the Forward Fleet and considered 'fit for purpose' is detailed in the following table. Fit for purpose is defined as helicopters that are available, reliable, airworthy and capable of carrying out their planned missions on a given date. The term 'fit for service' is not recognised in this context.

Helicopter type	*Fit for purpose (Percentage)*
Agusta A109	75
Apache	50
Chinook 2/2a	67
Gazelle AHI	81
Lynx MK 3 and 8	69
Lynx MK 7 and 9	57
Merlin MK 1	41
Merlin MK 3	50
Puma	64
Sea King MK 3/3A	64
Sea King MK 4/6C	52
Sea King MK 5	54
Sea King MK 7	44

These numbers will vary from day-to-day. The figures shown are the average for the month of August 2007.

All UK helicopters deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan are considered fit for purpose, but not all will be available for operational flying each day due to routine maintenance requirements. However, operational capability is measured in terms of flying hours rather than the number of airframes available, and sufficient helicopters and helicopter hours are provided to meet essential operational commitments. We continue to review these operational requirements and do adjust as necessary.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 September 2007, *Official Report,* column 1624W, on Iraq: peacekeeping operations, what the total core costs were before the net additional costs of the units that have been present in Iraq in each financial year since 2002-03. [159884]

Des Browne: The defence budget and expenditure is not disaggregated in a way that can identify sunk costs used towards operations. These costs are considered normal business for the Ministry of Defence.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where and when he raised the concerns of Sir Mike Jackson on US policy in Iraq with his US counterpart; and if he will publish the minutes of the meeting. [160176]

Des Browne: I have regular discussions with the US Defence Secretary on issues of mutual interest, including the situation in Iraq. I have not discussed with him the opinions of General Sir Mike Jackson.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many cases of *(a)* gastroenteritis, *(b)* meningitis, *(c)* pneumonia and *(d)* food poisoning there have been among UK armed services personnel in (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan since March 2003. [161312]

Derek Twigg: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member's question in the time available before prorogation.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many units of whole blood were used by British military hospitals in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in each year since March 2003. [161314]

Derek Twigg: Blood supply to our medical teams in operational theatres is supplied in its component parts (e.g. red cell concentrate, platelets, plasma, cryoprecipitate) and is not supplied as whole blood. The information is therefore not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Appropriate procedures are in place to ensure sufficient blood resources are available in both operational theatres.

Iraq: Police

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information he has on the ethnic and religious composition of the Iraqi *(a)* police and *(b)* security forces of the (i) Ministry of Defence and (ii) Ministry of the Interior; and if he will make a statement. [158388]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The ethnic and religious composition of the Iraqi Security Forces and Iraqi Government Departments is a matter for the Iraqi Government. We do, however, work closely with the leadership of the Iraqi security forces in South East Iraq in an effort to ensure that the ethnic composition of those forces does not reduce their operational effectiveness.

Iraq: Prime Minister

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date he was first informed of the Prime Minister's plans to visit Iraq in October. [160051]

Des Browne: I regularly discuss Iraq with my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, including the dates for potential visits.

Iraq: Resettlement

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what definition he uses of locally engaged staff. [160686]

Derek Twigg: MOD employs a number of locally engaged staff overseas who are known as locally engaged civilians (LECs). The definition of a locally engaged civilian is an employee who has been recruited locally as a "servant of the Crown". In other words, they have not been recruited through fair and open competition in the UK under the Civil Service Order in Council and they are not therefore members of the Home Civil Service or the Diplomatic Service. LECs are also employed on terms and conditions analogous with local employment law and market forces, and not those of the UK. The majority of civilian personnel employed overseas by MOD are LECs and not civil servants.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to Annex A of the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) (DEP 07/101), what changes to the proposed UK JSF delivery schedule have been made since the MoU signature. [161580]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK continuously reviews its requirement and delivery profile for JSF in order to ensure Carrier Strike coherence. The profile contained within the MOU was an estimate of our requirement at that point in time. The current plan remains to purchase up to 150 Short Take Off and Vertical Landing JSF to fulfil this requirement.

Marine Afloat Reach and Support Project

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the procurement strategy for the Marine Afloat Reach and Support Project has been altered so that the competition for a lead project integrator has been abandoned; and if he will make a statement. [156463]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability (MARS) project is currently in its assessment phase. During this stage of any Defence project, the MOD keeps its procurement approach under review to ensure it continues to meet the requirement and is fully exploiting market conditions in order to get the best value for money for Defence.

The initial contractual route for the MARS project centred on the formation of an alliance, consisting of MOD and industrial partners, including an Integrator. A number of influencing factors, however, led to a review of the MARS procurement strategy in May 2007: market developments, namely the rapidly changing shipbuilding market conditions; confirmation of the CVF order; and the changing industrial landscape under the Defence Industrial Strategy. The decision not to proceed with the MARS Integrator Competition was taken in this context.

MOD is currently analysing the various options available to best procure the MARS ships, concentrating initially on the fleet tankers which are the most urgently required vessels.

Married Quarters: Sales

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Ministry of Defence houses were sold in each of the last 10 years. [160053]

Derek Twigg: Details of the number of service family accommodation (SFA) properties sold in Northern Ireland are not held centrally so will take a little more time to collate. I will write to the hon. Member and a copy of my letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Records of other SFA sold in financial year 1997-98 to 1999-2000 no longer exist. However, SFA properties sold in each financial year since FY 2000-01 are set out as follows:

Financial year	*SFA sold*
2000-01	316
2001-02	250
2002-03	336
2003-04	208
2004-05	62
2005-06	281
2006-07	365

Medals

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future location of the office issuing medals to members of the Army; what assessment he has made of the impact of any future move of the office on *(a)* staff and *(b)* the effectiveness of the issuing process; and what further costs will be incurred in any such move. [157096]

Derek Twigg: I have yet to receive the Business Case in support of the recent study into the future accommodation requirements of the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency.

However, I can assure the hon. Gentleman that when I come to look at its recommendations, I will of course take into consideration the impact of any decision made to the services delivered by the Ministry of Defence Medal Office.

I will inform Parliament once a decision has been made.

Military Aircraft: Deployment

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times Royal Air Force flights were scrambled to intercept aircraft approaching the UK in each month for the latest year for which figures are available; and in each case from which countries the approaching aircraft originated. [155132]

Des Browne *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* For the year from 1 September 2006 to 31 August 2007, the number of scrambles to intercept aircraft approaching the UK by month is given in the following table:

	Number
2006	
September	1
October	0
November	1
December	0
2007	
January	0
February	1
March	0
April	2
May	0
June	0
July	3
August	1

Not all scrambles resulted in an interception as some incidents were resolved before the target aircraft was intercepted. The military aircraft involved were Russian. The civilian airliners were from a range of countries.

Military Aircraft: Manpower

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many ground personnel in theatre are required to keep each *(a)* Eurofighter, *(b)* GR7 Harrier, *(c)* Merlin, *(d)* Lynx, *(e)* Sea King, *(f)* Chinook and *(g)* Apache operational. [157075]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of personnel required to support each aircraft will vary depending on operational theatre and tasking. It is not possible to assign a precise number of personnel to a specific aircraft type, as many individuals provide essential support services to several aircraft types. The Typhoon (Eurofighter) aircraft is not currently deployed to any operational theatre.

Military Fighting Vehicles

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when his Department's programme to fit air conditioning units to many current and future armoured fighting vehicles and protected patrol vehicles began; and what percentage of vehicles identified as requiring such units now have them. [157089]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Details on the programmes to fit air conditioning to the current and future armoured fighting vehicles and protected patrol vehicles are shown as follows:

Vehicle	*Programme to fit air conditioning units*	*Percentage of those vehicles requiring air conditioning which have it fitted*
Challenger 2	Fitted at manufacture[1]	100
CVR(T)	Began June 2007	100
FV430 Bulldog	Began June 2007	100
Mastiff	Fitted at manufacture	100
Saxon Patrol	Began June 2006	[2]100
Titan	Fitted at manufacture	100
Trojan	Fitted at manufacture	100
Vector	Fitted at manufacture	100
Warrior	Began July 2007	[3]22
Snatch	Began mid-2004	100

[1] An improved variant now fitted to 100 per cent of operational fleet.
[2] All vehicles on operations are fitted with air conditioning. A further 20 non-operational vehicles being fitted as a contingency measure.
[3] All Warriors on operations are fitted with driver's Environmental Cooling Units (ECU). Programme to fit operational fleet with driver/infantry section ECU ongoing. 98 per cent. of op. fleet will be fitted by January 2008.

On present plans, all Future Rapid Effects System vehicles will be fitted with environmental control systems.

NATO

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which of the NATO Mediterranean dialogue partner countries have begun negotiations for individual cooperation programmes with NATO; and when these negotiations are expected to be concluded. [158274]

Des Browne: To date, two of the seven Mediterranean dialogue countries have entered into negotiations with NATO for an individual co-operation programme. Israel's was agreed in October 2006; and Egypt's on 17 October 2007.

Nuclear Weapons: Testing

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what records his Department holds on how many *(a)* British service personnel, *(b)* medical auxiliaries, *(c)* UK Atomic Energy Authority personnel, *(d)* Atomic Weapons Research Establishment personnel and *(e)* others took part in the British nuclear testing programme in the Pacific and Australia in the 1950s and 1960s. [160505]

Derek Twigg: MOD does not hold statistics on overall participation in the tests. Three studies by the National Radiological Protection Board (NRPB, now part of the Health Protection Agency) into mortality and cancer incidence among UK nuclear test veterans included 21,357 participants identified from MOD archives. This can be taken as a lower limit on the total number of people who participated in the tests. The NRPB studies count a total of 27,505 'involvements' from the 21,357 participants. The number of test involvements was greater than the number of participants because some people attended more than one test.

The 27,505 involvements are broken down as follows:

Royal Navy: 7,219

Army: 7,462

RAF: 11,220

AWRE: 1,604

The figure for AWRE staff includes a small but unspecified number from the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the title is of each document relating to British nuclear tests in *(a)* Australia, *(b)* Christmas Island and *(c)* Malden Island that has been withheld from public release at the National Archives. [160507]

Derek Twigg: In accordance with the Public Records Acts, MOD withholds from release to the public at the National Archives files that are over 30 years old, or extracts from them, if and for so long as their contents are judged to be sensitive.

Currently MOD holds 45 complete file parts and 10 extracts from file parts that relate to the nuclear tests in Australia, Christmas Island and Malden Island. Lists of all the documents contained within these files could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The files titles are as follows:

Files

Christmas Island

Decay rates of fallout at Operation Hurricane

Fallout distribution at Operation Hurricane

Grapple "Z" extracts

HMS Diana in light fallout—Op Mosaic

Maralinga and Christmas Island tests

Maralinga—contaminated waste x 2 files

Maralinga, Emu and Monte Bello x 7 files

Nuclear test series, code name Buffalo x 2 files

Operation Antler: preparation for UK nuclear weapon trials at Maralinga 1957

Operation Hurricane: preparation for United Kingdom nuclear weapon trials at Monte Bello 1952

Op Buffalo x 4 files

Operation Antler

Op Hurricane

Operation Hurricane/Tigress

Some solubility experiments on Mosaic and Grapple Fallout

Surface phenomena at Operation Hurricane

UK hydrogen bombs tests: details relating to operations "Mosaic" "Buffalo" and "Grapple"

UK hydrogen bomb tests code name "Grapple" x 3 files

UK megaton weapon tests at Christmas Island, code name Grapple X x 2 files

UK tests and experiments 1952 to 1963 x 2 files

UK tests and experiments 1952-1963 x 9 files.

File extracts

Atomic energy—UK trials—Antler (formerly Sapphire and Volcano)

Buffalo

Grapple "Z" extracts

Hydrogen bomb trials x 3 file extracts

Hydrogen bomb trials—Grapple—Grapex

Nuclear tests codename Buffalo

UK megaton weapon tests at Christmas Island, code name Grapple X x 2 file extracts.

The Atomic Weapons Establishment holds on the same basis a large number of documents and files relating to nuclear tests. Their list has some 560 entries, and I will arrange for a copy of it to be placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment has been made of the potential adverse health effects of the use of dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane to control flies on Christmas and Malden Islands during their use in British nuclear warhead tests. [160509]

Derek Twigg: The UK atmospheric nuclear tests took place in areas with high levels of tropical insect pests which presented a risk to health. To minimise this, aerial spraying of DDT was carried out. There is no reliable evidence that DDT causes adverse health effects in humans and MOD has not undertaken any specific assessment of the risks associated with the use of DDT in nuclear testing.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department *(a)* was invited to attend and *(b)* attended the meetings on nuclear test veterans held on 15 and 16 October 2007 at the House of Commons, chaired by the hon. Members for Norwich, North (Dr. Gibson) and for Billericay (Mr. Baron). [160527]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence was invited to attend a parliamentary inquiry into the health effects of Operation Grapple (UK nuclear tests of 1957-58). MOD declined to be involved in this inquiry because its proposed scope is the subject of current civil proceedings. Two MOD officials attended the inquiry as observers.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department holds on Fijian nationals who were present at the British nuclear tests in the Pacific. [160529]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence holds limited information on Fijian nationals who were present at the British nuclear tests in the Pacific. Records held by the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) contain four pages listing the names of Fijian nationals involved, and the tests for which they were present. No radiation doses were recorded for any Fijian national.

At Operation Mosaic, which took place in 1956 at the Monte Bello Islands off the North West coast of Australia, 32 Fijians were onboard HMS Newfoundland. Two Mosaic trials were held. At the first on 16 May, HMS Newfoundland was docked at Singapore. At the second on 19 June trial, the ship was approximately 565 nautical miles (approx. 940 km) west north west of the Monte Bello Islands.

Operation Grapple comprised three trials which took place in May and June of 1957 off the Maiden Island; 42 Fijians were onboard the aircraft carrier, HMS Warrior, which was the Forward Area Control Ship for the trials, and the Task Force flagship. The flagship acted as the control centre for a group of ships stationed off Maiden Island during the trials.

At a later trial, Operation Grapple Y, 23 Fijians were stationed at HMS Resolution. The Grapple Y trial took place on 28 April 1958 off the south east point of Kiritimati (formerly Christmas Island). From December 1957, HMS Resolution was the name used for the group of naval personnel based onshore at Kiritimati. HMS Resolution was situated at Port London, on the north west side of the island, approximately 43 km from the point of detonation.

At a subsequent series of trials, Operation Grapple Z, 16 Fijians were attached to 269 Squadron. The series comprised four nuclear detonations at the south-east point of Kiritimati, which took place in August and September 1958. The duties performed by 269 Squadron during Operation Grapple Z were reconnaissance, meteorological patrol and air-sea rescue.

More widely, AWE records indicate that the 'Fijian Military Force' was under 12 Independent Field Squadron from April 1958 to February 1959; under 36 Corps Engineer Regiment, Royal Engineers, from February 1959 to November 1959; and under 73 (Christmas Island) Squadron, Royal Engineers, from November 1959 to April 1960.

Royal Marines: Deployment

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to relocate the Royal Marine training hulk HMS Rame Head from Fareham Creek; and if he will make a statement. [161754]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: HMS Rame Head is no longer being used as a training facility. She is currently being surveyed in order to allow for eventual disposal and appropriate re-cycling.

Royal Marines: Training

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where the training conducted for Turnchapel-based 539 Assault Squadron is. [161752]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Individual vocational training is conducted by 10 (Landing Craft) Training Squadron based at Poole. This training is carried out in Poole Harbour and from the Solent to Plymouth. Surf and wading training is conducted at 11 (Amphibious Trials and Training) Squadron at Instow in North Devon.

Collective training is carried out locally in Plymouth Sound with more advanced training, usually involving amphibious ships, in the South Coast training areas or the northern training areas around Cape Wrath. 539 Assault Squadron Royal Marines also conduct bilateral training exercises with navies from other countries outside UK waters.

Royal Navy: Training

Linda Gilroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where training for the landing craft which support *(a)* HMS Ocean, *(b)* HMS Albion and *(c)* HMS Bulwark is conducted. [161753]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Individual vocational training is conducted by 10 (Landing Craft) Training Squadron based at Poole. This training is carried out in Poole Harbour and from the Solent to Plymouth. Surf and wading training is conducted at 11 (Amphibious Trials and Training) Squadron at Instow in North Devon.

Once qualified, personnel join the major Assault Squadrons in the Amphibious Task Group (HMS Ocean, HMS Albion and HMS Bulwark) and receive further training as appropriate.

Seismic Monitoring

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what seismological recording stations there are in the UK. [159676]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The national seismic monitoring network of the UK is operated by the British Geological Survey (BGS), a wholly owned Research Centre of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC). Table 1 provides a list of the sites and locations.

In addition, there are six stations owned by the Ministry of Defence, one of which is used for comprehensive test ban treaty verification work (Eskdalemuir Array). The full list is given in Table 2.

Table 1: National seismic monitoring network

Site code	*Name*	*Latitude*	*Longitude*
YEL	Yell	60.55	-1.08
WAL	Walls	60.26	-1.62
LRW	Lerwick	60.14	-1.18
SAN	Sandwick	60.02	-1.24
OWE	Westray	59.32	-3.03
OST	Stronsay	59.09	-2.55
OHO	Hoy	58.83	-3.25
RCR	Cape Wrath	58.62	-5.00

Table 1: National seismic monitoring network

Site code	Name	Latitude	Longitude
OBR	Brabster	58.61	-3.16
ODR	Dounreay	58.58	-3.73
ORE	Reay	58.55	-3.76
OTO	Tongue	58.50	-4.39
RTO	Tolsta	58.38	-6.21
RSC	Scourie	58.35	-5.17
MLA	Latheron	58.31	-3.36
Mudale	Mudale	58.29	-4.50
RFO	Forsnaval	58.21	-7.01
REB	Eisg-Brachaidh	58 12	-5.28
MVH	Achvaich	57.93	-4.18
RRH	Rhenigidale	57.92	-6.69
RRR	Rubha Reidh	57.86	-5.81
MFI	Fishrie	57.61	-2.30
MCD	Coleburn Distillery	57.58	-3.25
KAC	Achnashellach	57.50	-5.30
KSK	Scoval	57.47	-6.70
MDO	Dochfour	57.44	-4.36
KPL	Plockton	57.34	-5.65
KDUR	Duncraig	57.33	-5.61
MME	Meikle Cairn	57.31	-2.96
TULLOCH	Tulloch	57.23	-3.69
KSB	Shiel Bridge	57.21	-5.42
EDR	Drumtochty	56.92	-2.54
KAR	Arisaig	56.92	-5.83
KNR	Nevis Range	56.82	-4.97
EDU	Dundee	56.55	-3.01
ELO	Logiealmond	56.47	-3.71
MUSDALE	Musdale	56.35	-5.34
EBH	Black Hill	56.25	-3.51
EAB	Aberfoyle	56.19	-4.34
PCO	Corrie	55.99	-4.10
TOR	Torness	55.97	-2.40
MH	Murchison House	55.92	-3.18
EDI	Edinburgh Royal Observatory	55.92	-3.19
ESY	Stoneypath	55.92	-2.61
PMS	Muirshiel	55.85	-4.75
POB	Paisley Observatory	55.85	-4.43
EAU	Auchinoon	55.85	-3.45
PGB	Glenifferbraes	55.81	-4.48
EBL	Broad Law	55.77	-3.04
PCA	Carrot	55.70	-4.26
XSO	Sourhope	55.49	-2.25
GMK	Mull Of Kintyre	55.35	-5.59
ESK	Eskdalemuir Observatory	55.32	-3.21
XJSR	Jocks Shoulder	55.31	-3.30
ECK	Cauldkaine Hill	55.18	-3.13
BWH	Wardlaw	55.18	-3.65
BBH	Bruntsheil	55.13	-2.93
BHH	Howats Hill	55.09	-3.22
GCL	Cushendall	55.08	-6.13
BCC	Chapelcross	55.02	-3.22
BNA	New Abbey	54.97	-3.62
RBKR	Red Bank	54.91	-3.66
BTA	Talkin	54.91	-2.68
GCDR	Cambret Hill	54.89	-4.30
GAL	Galloway	54.87	-4.71
GCD	Castle Douglas	54.86	-3.94
XAL	Allendale	54.86	-2.21
BDL	Dobcross Hall	54.80	-2.94

Table 1: National seismic monitoring network

Site code	Name	Latitude	Longitude
LCP	Cassop	54.74	-1.47
BBO	Bothel	54.74	-3.25
CKE	Keswick	54.59	-3.11
XDE	Dent	54.51	-3.49
CWS	Winscale Farm	54.47	-3.50
CSF	Scafell	54.45	-3.24
SPK	Sella Park	54.43	-3.49
CSM	Sellafield	54.42	-3.49
LRN	Richmond	54.42	-1.80
CDU	Dunnerdale	54.34	-3.20
LWH	Whinny Nab	54.33	-0.67
GIM	Isle Of Man (North)	54.29	-4.47
NANR	Nan Hill	54.24	-3.36
GMM	Mtns Of Mourne	54.24	-5.95
LMI	Millom	54.22	-3.31
WIM	Isle Of Man (South)	54.15	-4.67
HPK	Haverah Park	53.96	-1.62
LDU	Leeds University	53.81	-1.55
LHO	Holmefirth	53.55	-1.85
LMK	Market Rasen	53.46	-0.33
WME	Myndd Eilian	53.40	-4.30
WCB	Church Bay	53.38	-4.55
WLF	Llynfaes	53.29	-4.40
WPM	Penmaenmawr	53.26	-3.90
KBI	Birley Grange	53.25	-1.53
YRC	Rhoscolyn	53.25	-4.58
YLL	Llanberis	53.14	-4.17
STNC	Stoke	53.09	-2.21
KWE	Weaver Farm	53.02	-1.84
YRE	Yr Eifl	52.98	-4.43
KSY	Syston	52.96	-0.59
SBD	Bryn Du	52.91	-3.26
ABA	Baconsthorpe	52.89	1.15
KEY	Keyworth	52.88	-1.08
YRH	Rhiw	52.83	-4.63
AWI	Witton	52.83	1.45
CWF	Charnwood Fst	52.74	-1.31
WFB	Fairbourne	52.68	-4.04
KWHR	Whattburgh Hill	52.64	-0.87
AWH	Whinburgh	52.63	0.95
AEU	University of East Anglia	52.62	1.24
KUF	Ufford	52.62	-0.39
HLM	Long Mynd	52.52	-2.88
SSP	Stoney Pound	52.42	-3.11
KTG	Tilbrook Grnge	52.33	-0.40
HCG	Craig Goch	52.32	-3.66
APA	Packway	52.30	1.48
HTR	Trewern Hill	52.08	-3.27
HBL	Bonnylands	52.05	-3.04
HAE	Alders End	52.04	-2.54
MCH	Michaelchurch	52.00	-3.00
SSW	Stow-On-Wold	51.97	-1.85
HPE	Pembroke	51.94	-4.77
TCR	Colchester	51.83	0.92
HSA	Swansea	51.75	-4.15
SKP	Kophill	51.72	-0.81
TBW	Brentwood	51.65	0.29
HGH	Gray Hill	51.64	-2.81
SWN	Swindon	51.51	-1.80
SFHR	Whitefield	51.49	-1.70

Table 1: National seismic monitoring network

Site code	Name	Latitude	Longitude
SMD	Mendips	51.31	-2.72
TSA	Sevenoaks	51.24	0.16
Anvil	Anvil Green	51.21	1.02
SWK	Warminster	51.15	-2.25
TFO	Folkestone	51.11	1.14
Shdoxhurst	Shadoxhurst	51.09	0.82
HEX	Exmoor	51.07	-3.80
SFH	Haselmere	51.06	-0.69
HTL	Hartland	50.99	-4.48
TEB	Eastbourne	50.82	0.15
SIW	Isle of Wight	50.67	-1.37
DYA	Yadsworthy	50.44	-3.93
CSA	St Austell	50.35	-4.89
DCO	Combe Farm	50.32	-3.87
CST	Stithians	50.20	-5.16
CCA	Carnmenellis	50.19	-5.23
CRQ	Rosemanowes	50.17	-5.17
CPZ	Penzance	50.16	-5.58
CBW	Budock Water	50.15	-5.11
CCO	Constantine	50.14	-5.20
CGW	Gweek	50.10	-5.22
CMA	Manaccan	50.08	-5.13
CGH	Goonhilly	50.05	-5.16
JLP	Les Platons	49.25	-2.10
JVM	Valle D. L. Mare	49.22	-2.21
JDC	Queens Valley Dam	49.20	-2.04
JQE	Queens East	49.20	-2.04
JRS	Maison St Louis	49.19	-2.09
JSA	St Aubins	49.19	-2.17
JFRR	Fort Regent	49.18	-2.10

Table 2: Seismic stations owned by the MOD

Site code	Name	Latitude	Longitude
EKA	Eskdalemuir Array	53.33	-3.16
LLW	Llanuwychllyn	52.85	-3.67
LPW	Lampeter	52.11	-4.07
BKN	Blacknest Local Network	51.36	-1.19
WOL	Wolverton	51.31	-1.22
SBD	St Breward	50.57	-4.69

Note:
Latitude and longitude are given in degrees with decimal fractions, with west represented as negative.

Submarines

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many attack submarines the Royal Navy will have in each of the next 10 years; and what the in-service date would be of each boat in a flotilla of *(a)* six, *(b)* seven and *(c)* eight Astute-class submarines. [160087]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 24 October 2007]:* On present plans, which are regularly reviewed, the number of Attack submarines in each year is as follows:

	Number of vessels
2007	9
2008	8
2009	8
2010	8
2011	7
2012	7
2013	7
2014	7
2015	7
2016	7

It is departmental policy to release in-service dates only for those vessels for which the main investment decision has been taken. HMS Astute's in-service date is programmed for 2009 with the next three submarines of the class to follow in 2010, 2012 and 2015 respectively.

Territorial Army: Health

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what account is taken of performance in the combat fitness test in the assessment of *(a)* suitability and *(b)* progress of Territorial Army applicants for potential junior NCO courses; and if he will make a statement. [160421]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Territorial Army personnel are only usually allowed to undertake potential Junior Non-Commissioned Officer (JNCO) courses if they have passed the Military Annual Training Test (MATT), of which the Combat Fitness Test (CFT) is a constituent part, and if they are deemed suitable (including being mentally and physically fit) to attend by their unit.

TA personnel who are unable to meet the JNCO course standards set out by their Corps (including the CFT if it is part of the syllabus) are unlikely to progress and be recommended for promotion.

Territorial Army: Pay

Mr. Charles Kennedy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what delays are occurring to payments to Territorial Army personnel arising from the introduction of the new pay system; and if he will make a statement. [161409]

Derek Twigg: There are no known systemic problems that may have caused any delay in payments to Territorial Army personnel.

Delays or errors in individual payments can occur as the result of late or incorrect inputs by unit Human Resources staff and can also be due to failure to follow the correct processes within the payroll delivery area.

Trident

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his answer to the hon. Member for Meirionnydd Nant Conwy (Mr. Llwyd) of 26 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1252W, on Trident, how often in each year he expects to present to Parliament interim reports on meeting progress targets in the programme development before the Initial Gate of the replacement for Trident; whether he plans to include financial expenditure details with each interim report; and if he will make it his policy to present each report to Parliament accompanied by an oral statement. [160090]

Des Browne *[holding answer 24 October 2007]:* Interim reports on the programme to maintain the UK's nuclear deterrent will be provided depending on progress. We are in the early stages of this programme and there are no plans as yet to provide an interim report.

TRiM Programme

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what evaluation has been made of the efficacy of the TRiM programme. [158246]

Derek Twigg: The Academic Centre for Defence Mental Health and the Kings Centre for Military Health Research, has conducted a randomised control trial into Trauma Risk Management (TRiM). The study was fully funded by the MOD. The results of this trial will be published in due course.

Unidentified Flying Objects

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department's (Air Staff)/Defence Secretariat is responsible for the evaluation of reported unidentified flying objects. [160949]

Derek Twigg: The Directorate of Air Staff remains responsible for the evaluation of reported unidentified flying objects, calling, if necessary, for advice from other branches.

Warships: Brunei

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with his counterpart in Brunei on the on-selling of three BAE-built warships by that country; what the requirements are for end-user reporting and certification; and if he will make a statement. [158781]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Defence Ministers have had no discussions with the Brunei Government about potential purchasers for the three offshore patrol vessels built by BAE Systems.

As the ships are controlled for export and are in the UK, a licence will be required before export. Applicants are required to provide details of the end-user as part of the licensing process.

Written Questions

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he will answer question 157096, tabled by the hon. Member of Mid Worcestershire on 8 October, on the office issuing medals to the Army. [160653]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 25 October 2007]:* I replied to the hon. Member today. I apologise for the delay in replying which was due to an administrative error.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when will he reply to Question 156924, on service personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan, tabled by the hon. Member for Woking on 10 October 2007. [160837]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 25 October 2007]:* I replied to the hon. Member today.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people attended accident and emergency at *(a)* Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup and *(b)* Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich in each of the last five years. [160467]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not held in the format requested. The following table shows attendances at the accident and emergency departments, minor injury units and Walk in Centres of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital National Health Service Trusts and the Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust from 2002-07.

Name	*Total attendances*				
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	77,320	88,657	98,389	105,171	99,690
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	80,526	68,049	73,102	73,993	74,680

Note:
Attendances at Walk in Centres were included in the collection from 2003-04.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many individuals aged 11 to 18 years resident in Ribble Valley constituency were treated for alcohol-related health problems in each year since 1997. [161146]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the format required.

The following table shows the number of finished admission episodes in the Hyndburn and Ribble Valley PCT where there was a primary diagnosis of alcohol related disease for those aged between 11-18 at admission from 1997-98 to 2005-06.

	Finished admission episodes
2005-06	26
2004-05	21
2003-04	22
2002-03	26
2001-02	28
2000-01	15
1999-2000	28

	Finished admission episodes
1998-99	13
1997-98	15

Notes:
1. Finished in-year admissions
An admission episode is the first episode in a patient's hospital stay. An episode is defined as a period of inpatient care under a single consultant. For finished in year admission episodes, only those admission episodes that start and finish in the same financial year are counted. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. Diagnosis (primary diagnosis)
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
F10 Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol
K70 Alcoholic liver disease
T51 Toxic effect of alcohol
Please note that "alcohol related" is not a clearly defined condition and there may be some differences in codes used for different cases. These are defined by a primary diagnosis of mental and behavioural disorders due to alcohol (ICD10 code F10), alcoholic liver disease (K70) and toxic effect of alcohol (T51) in this reply. Counts for primary diagnoses are included only where these conditions were the main reason for the patients to be admitted to hospitals, therefore, counts do not include patients who were admitted to hospitals for any other reason than defined by the above diagnoses that may have been treated in hospitals with any of these diagnoses as a secondary condition.
3. Ungrossed data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics, Information Centre for health and social care.

Alzheimer's Disease: Drugs

Mr. Skinner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of providing drugs for Alzheimer's disease in the last five years. [161060]

Dawn Primarolo: The cost of providing drugs for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease (donepezil, galantamine, memantine and rivastigmine[1]) in England is in the following table.

[1] Rivastigmine is also licensed for dementia associated with Parkinson's disease and some of the data may relate to prescriptions dispensed for that condition.

	Net ingredient cost of drugs dispensed in the community	£000 Cost of dispensing drugs prescribed in secondary care
2002	20,567	6,720
2003	31,347	9,204
2004	42,765	11,160
2005	49,257	11,973
2006	58,969	11,943

Sources:
1. Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system.
2. © IMS HEALTH: Hospital Pharmacy Audit.

Ambulance Services

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance he is giving to NHS ambulance trusts in light of the Sheffield Study. [159991]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not plan to issue any guidance to NHS ambulance trusts in the light of the study undertaken by the Medical Care Research Unit in Sheffield, subsequently published in the *Emergency Medicine Journal*.

It is for the local NHS to plan and provide services. The organisation of services is therefore a matter for local NHS organisations, working with their strategic health authorities and stakeholders. The NHS should seek to provide care as close to home as is compatible with clinical safety and therefore how the NHS responds to emergencies needs to focus not just on getting the patient to a particular location, but also on taking care to the patient. In addition, in order to provide patients requiring particular specialised services with safe, high quality care, it may be appropriate to have the expertise, experience and equipment in fewer locations.

Ambulance Services: South West Region

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of the merger of the former Avon, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire ambulance trusts on *(a)* the use of resources and *(b)* quality of services provided. [161263]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not made an assessment of the effects of the merger.

Ambulance Services: Standards

Mr. Dunne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the lowest number of ambulances available for emergency response in Shropshire is likely to be on a single day in 2007-08; whether there is a minimum number of on-call units set for safe coverage; and if he will make a statement; [160426]

(2) how many ambulances were available for emergency response in Shropshire *(a)* in each month from December 2006 and *(b)* on each day in October 2007. [160600]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not held centrally. The hon. Member should contact his ambulance trust for this information.

Anti-psychotic Drugs

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, columns 408-9W, on anti-psychotic drugs, how many adverse reaction reports were received through the yellow card system for *(a)* all anti-psychotic drugs, *(b)* traditional anti-psychotic drugs and *(c)* atypical anti-psychotic drugs since 31 December 2006; how many prescriptions there were for each type of drug for those aged (i) 60 to 64, (ii) 65 to 74 and (iii) 75 years and over in that period; and if he will make a statement; [160840]

(2) how many adverse reaction reports were received through the yellow card reporting system for *(a)* all anti-psychotic drugs, *(b)* traditional anti-psychotic drugs and *(c)* atypical anti-psychotic drugs in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2006-07, broken down by those aged (A) 50 to 64, (B) 65 to 74 and (C) 75 years and over; and how many prescriptions were issued for each type of drug in each year; [160872]

(3) how many adverse reaction reports were received through the yellow card reporting system for *(a)* all anti-psychotic drugs, *(b)* traditional anti-psychotic drugs and *(c)* atypical anti-psychotic drugs in 2006; and how many prescriptions there were for each type of drug for those aged (i) 50 to 64, (ii) 65 to 74 and (iii) 75 years and over. [160873]

Dawn Primarolo: Anti-psychotic drugs are used in the treatment of schizophrenia and other psychotic

illnesses, and as with all marketed drugs their safety is continually monitored by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and Commission for Human Medicines (CHM). The British National Formulary lists antipsychotic medicines in sections 4.2.1 and 4.2.2.

The numbers of anti-psychotic prescription items from the Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) database are shown in the following table.

Numbers of prescriptions showing numbers of anti-psychotic prescription items between 1 April 2004 and 31 March 2007

Financial year	All anti-psychotics	Atypical anti-psychotics	Traditional anti-psychotics
2004-05	5,666,765	3,314,862	2,351,903
2005-06	5,970,940	3,721,212	2,249,728
2006-07	6,308,226	4,175,920	2,132,306

The necessary information is not available to break these figures down into the age groups in the first part of the question.

Reports of "suspected" adverse drug reactions (ADRs) are collected by the MHRA and CHM through the spontaneous reporting scheme; the yellow card scheme.

The following tables show the number of suspected ADR reports received by the MHRA in the specified time periods where an anti-psychotic drug was listed by the reporter as being suspect. The total ADR reports for all anti-psychotics is not equal to the sum of both atypical and traditional anti-psychotics since an individual ADR report may provide more than one drug as suspect.

Suspected ADR reports received by the MHRA between 31 December 2006 and 21 October 2007

	Number
All anti-psychotics	1,865
Atypical anti-psychotics	1,752
Traditional anti-psychotics	137

Number of suspected ADR reports received by the MHRA between 1 April 2004 and 31 March 2007, broken down by financial year and into age groups of 50-64 years, 65-74 years and 75 or over years

All anti-psychotics	Age group			
Financial year	50-64	65-74	75+	Total all age groups
2004-05	379	96	84	2,216
2005-06	371	97	73	2,495
2006-07	392	94	72	2,218

Atypical anti-psychotics	Age group			
Financial year	50-64	65-74	75+	Total all age groups
2004-05	362	78	78	2,111
2005-06	345	85	57	2,315
2006-07	352	81	56	2,034

Traditional anti-psychotics	Age group			
Financial year	50-64	65-74	75+	Total all age groups
2004-05	17	17	7	113
2005-06	30	13	18	204
2006-07	41	11	21	199

Suspected ADR reports received by the MHRA between 1 January 2006 and 31 December 2006

	Number
All anti-psychotics	2,127
Atypical anti-psychotics	1,920
Traditional anti-psychotics	226

It is important to note that the submission of a suspected ADR report does not necessarily mean that it was caused by the drug. Many factors have to be taken into account in assessing causal relationships including temporal association, the possible contribution of concomitant medication and the underlying disease.

Anti-psychotic Drugs: Elderly

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people over the age of 60 years were prescribed anti-psychotic drug treatments on the NHS in *(a)* England and *(b)* each strategic health authority in (i) 2006 and (ii) 2007; and if he will make a statement. [160871]

Dawn Primarolo: Estimates of the number of anti-psychotic drug prescription items dispensed in the community in England and in each of the strategic health authorities to people over the age of 60 years are in the following table.

Strategic health authority	Estimated number of prescription items 2006	Thousand Estimated number of prescription items January-August 2007
East Midlands	195	139
East of England	256	182
London	299	217
North East	153	109
North West	417	313
South Central	189	137
South East Coast	215	153
South West	243	176
West Midlands	267	188
Yorkshire and the Humber	274	194
England	2,507	1,808

Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system

Blood: Donors

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the compliance with human rights legislation of his Department's policy that gay and bisexual men may not donate blood to the National Blood Service. [154768]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department considers that the donor selection criterion is compliant with the Human Rights Act 1998. The aim of donor selection criteria is to protect the health of the population and has proven to be an essential element in reducing transfusion-transmitted infections. Donor selection criteria, including this one, are set by the Joint UK Blood Transfusion Services and National Institute of Biological Standards and Control Professional Advisory Committee, and kept under review by the Advisory Committee on the Microbiological Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs for Transplantation.

Blood: Prisoners

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what records are kept relating to blood donations made by prisoners in secure accommodation for the manufacture of UK blood products since 1979; and if he will make a statement; [160754]

(2) when the National Blood Service stopped accepting donations from prisoners held in secure accommodation in *(a)* England, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales as a source of blood products for the manufacture of blood products; and if he will make a statement. [161328]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 25 October 2007]:* Prior to 1993, the blood services were managed on a regional basis. We have established that Regional Transfusion Directors in England started to phase out blood collections from prisons from 1980. We do not hold information for Scotland and Wales.

The Department does not hold information relating to individual blood donations made by prisoners. However, the Department is in the process of releasing all the documents which were considered in the "Review of Documentation Relating to the Safety of Blood Products 1970-1985 (Non-A, Non-B Hepatitis)". Numerous documents are already in the public domain, including some documentation which relates to the use of blood from prisons, although not on individual donations. These papers are available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Freedomofinformationpublicationschemefeedback/FOIreleases/DH_076693

Bolingbroke Hospital: Out-patients

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to make a decision on the transfer of out-patient services from Bolingbroke hospital to St. John's Therapy Centre referred by Wandsworth council. [155826]

Mr. Bradshaw: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has requested the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) to undertake an assessment to determine the suitability of the case from Wandsworth Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) for full IRP review and it has provided its advice.

My right hon. Friend has accepted in full the recommendations of the IRP. This means that the proposals relating to the transfer of the majority of services in the short term from Bolingbroke hospital to St. John's Therapy Centre and to close, but not dispose of, the site until consultation on the long term future of health services in Battersea and North Wandsworth is complete should be implemented. The Secretary of State has written to the HOSC council, the local national health service and all local hon. Members informing them of the decision.

Breasts: Health Services

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to implement the Government commitment that everyone with breast problems should see a specialist within two weeks of a referral by their GP. [161468]

Ann Keen: In September, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister announced proposals for cancer services including a guaranteed appointment with a specialist within two weeks of referral for all patients with breast problems, not just those with suspected cancer.

We aim to publish the Cancer Reform Strategy, which will set out the future direction of cancer services in England, by the end of the year. Details on the implementation of the proposals already announced will be issued in due course.

British Pregnancy Advisory Service Consultation Centres: Medical Equipment

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what resuscitation equipment is provided at British Pregnancy Advisory Service consultation centres; on how many occasions this equipment was used in each of the last five years for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [158379]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the use of such equipment is not collected centrally.

Broomfield Hospital: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the Broomfield Hospital Private Finance Initiative Scheme to receive final approval. [161125]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1951W.

Broomfield Hospital: Scouts and Guides

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the holding reply of 18 October 2007, when he will provide a substantive answer to question 158832, on treatment of Jamboree attenders at Broomfield Hospital, Chelmsford, tabled by the hon. Member for West Chelmsford on 12 October 2007. [161126]

Mr. Bradshaw: A reply was given on 23 October.

Budgeting: Handbooks

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the presentation entitled Policy Costing Overview given at the Financial Management and Reporting Steering Group meeting on 23 March 2007, for what reasons a costing handbook was necessary. [160791]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Policy Costing Handbook brought together good practice that already existed within the Department, codifying it and presenting it as a step-by-step process, to help all policy makers improve their forecasting of the financial impacts.

Care Homes: Fees and Charges

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which local authorities provide intermediate care free of charge to older people for the first six weeks of their confinement. [161190]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: All local authorities in England should provide intermediate care services free of charges for the first six weeks of treatment.

The Department does not collect information on intermediate care provided by local authorities.

Care Homes: Nutrition

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many incidents of malnutrition there were among the elderly in *(a)* private and *(b)* NHS-run care homes in each of the last 10 years, broken down by (i) age of patient and (ii) region; and if he will make a statement. [160826]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Detailed information on incidents of malnutrition in private and national health service-run care homes broken down by age and region is not held centrally.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to ensure that food served in care homes meets satisfactory nutritional levels; and if he will make a statement. [160857]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This year, two Nutrition Summits were held in March and July, to gather important stakeholders together to look at the issues around nutrition and nutritional care. As a result of the summits, we have devised a nutrition action plan jointly produced by the nutrition Summit stakeholders group and the Department, to tackle a wide range of issues and barriers to improving nutrition and nutritional care.

The nutrition action plan will be published tomorrow and there will be an ongoing monitoring of how stakeholders and their work have contributed to the aims of the plan through a governance board. The governance board will be accountable to Ministers for progress towards the actions outlined and there will be a progress report in Summer 2008.

Carers' Allowances

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether the carers grant will be renewed beyond March 2008; [161707]

(2) how much was available through the carers grant in each year since its inception. [161710]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The carers grant is set to continue throughout the next spending review period as part of the area based grant.

By 2008, the carers grant will have provided over £1 billion in support for carers. Information regarding the amount of the carers grant in each year since 1999 is in the following table.

	Carers grant (£ million)
1999-2000	20
2000-01	50
2001-02	70
2002-03	85
2003-04	100
2004-05	125
2005-06	185
2006-07	185
2007-08	185

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with carers' representatives on the settlement for social care funding in the Comprehensive Spending Review; and what the outcome was of those discussions. [161709]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As part of the review of the 1999 National Carers Strategy we have had extensive discussions with carers and their representatives on a range of issues including their concerns about the future funding of social care. However, there have been no specific discussions regarding the detail of the recent settlement.

The Department does meet regularly with both the Association of Directors of Adult Social Services and the Local Government Association. These meetings include discussions on future funding for social services and the potential impact this will have on services for individuals, including carers.

Central Middlesex Birthing Centre

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make a statement on the future of the Central Middlesex Birthing Centre. [157374]

Mr. Bradshaw: This is a matter for the local national health service (NHS). However, we have been informed by NHS London that a public consultation on the future of this facility jointly led between Brent Primary Care Trust and North West London Hospitals NHS Trust is planned for November. Any decision on the future of the birthing centre will not be made until the consultation is completed.

Central Middlesex Birthing Centre: Admissions

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were admitted to Central Middlesex Birthing Centre in each year since it was opened. [157373]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally by the Department. Figures for admission episodes are only held at trust level, and can not be broken down to individual hospitals. The following table shows the number of in-patients admitted to North West London Hospitals NHS Trust since 2004.

	Finished in year admission episodes
2004-05	89,743
2005-06	90,069

Notes:
1. Finished in-year admissions:
A finished in-year admission is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider, excluding admissions beginning before 1 April at the start of the data year. Please note that admissions to not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
2. Data Quality:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent over by over 300 national health service trusts and primary care trusts in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
3. Ungrossed data:
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data.
Source:
HES, The Information Centre for health and social care.

Childbirth: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many births there were at *(a)* Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, *(b)* Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich, *(c)* Darenth Valley Hospital, Dartford and *(d)* Princess Royal Hospital, Farnborough in each of the last five years. [160464]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 29 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question about how many births there were at (a) Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, (b) Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich, (c) Darent Valley Hospital, Dartford and (d) Princess Royal Hospital, Farnborough in each of the last five years. I am replying in her absence. (160464)

Figures on live births in hospitals are available from birth registration information. The latest available figures by place of birth are for 2005.

Live births for selected hospitals, 2001-05

Hospital	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*
Princess Royal Hospital, Farnborough	2,718	2,600	3,003	3,229	3,400
Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup	3,403	3,146	3,080	3,003	2,845
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich	2,364	3,097	3,312	3,567	3,764
Darent Valley Hospital, Dartford	2,300	2,378	2,494	2,560	2,804

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many registered births there were under the auspices of *(a)* Bexley Care Trust, *(b)* Greenwich Teaching Primary Care Trust, *(c)* Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Primary Care Trust and *(d)* Bromley Care Trust in each of the last five years. [160466]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 29 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your question about how many registered births there were under the auspices of (a) Bexley Care Trust, (b) Greenwich Teaching Primary Care Trust, (c) Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Primary Care Trust and (d) Bromley Care Trust in each of the last five years. I am replying in her absence. (160466)

Figures on live births to mothers resident in these PCTs are provided in the table below.

Live births to residents of selected primary care trusts, 2002-06

	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
(a) Bexley Care Trust	2,517	2,640	2,699	2,686	2,788
(b) Greenwich Teaching PCT	3,345	3,446	3,721	3,963	4,236
(c) Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley PCT	2,539	2,611	2,685	2,885	—
West Kent[1]	—	—	—	—	8,075
(d) Bromley Care Trust	3,401	3,651	3,589	3,663	3,740

[1] From October 2006 Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley PCT became part of the new West Kent PCT

Children: Health Services

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the presentation entitled Policy Costing Overview given at the Departmental Financial Management and Reporting Steering Group meeting on 23 March 2007, who the problem children are who need dealing with first. [160768]

Mr. Bradshaw: The reference was part of a wider discussion regarding whether or not it was possible to determine parts of the Department would benefit most from policy costing training. It was decided that training should be provided equally to all parts of the Department.

Chiropody: Standards

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to include chiropody in the NHS maximum waiting time target of 18 weeks; and if he will make a statement. [160861]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Therapies and treatments delivered by health professions, including chiropody services, are included in the 18-week maximum waiting time target if they form part of a consultant-led pathway.

In order to support all services provided by allied health professionals, the Department is implementing a therapies improvement programme. The programme will focus on improving access to allied health professional services, the available information and data management. The programme will support improvement in therapy services through providing local events and information for allied health professionals and local health communities.

Chlamydia: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department is making towards the aim that primary care trusts should screen 15 per cent. of the 15 to 24-year-old population for chlamydia; when his Department set this aim; whether this aim refers to the proportion of the 15 to 24-year-old population screened over a number of years or annually; and if he will make a statement. [160438]

Dawn Primarolo: Local Delivery Plans are negotiated as part of the Operating Framework for the national health service for 2007-08. All primary care trusts are expected to screen 15 per cent. of the target population between April 2007 and March 2008 and strategic health authorities submitted plans on how they intend to reach the target in this year. For the first quarter of 2007-08 there were 45,845 screens reported to the Health Protection Agency, this equates to 0.6 per cent. of the target population. The second quarter data will be published in November. For chlamydia screening, the 15 per cent. target refers to the population between the ages of 15-24 in England provided by the Office for National Statistics.

Clostridium

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the prevalence of *(a) Clostridium difficile* and *(b)* MRSA was in each of the last three years using the definition of prevalence included in the Third Prevalence Survey of Healthcare Associated Infections in Acute Hospitals in England 2006, published by his Department on 12 September. [159730]

Ann Keen: It is not possible to compare the results of the Third Prevalence Survey of Healthcare Associated Infections in acute hospitals in England 2006 with the incidence data collected by the Health Protection Agency on *Clostridium difficile* and Methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* as these are fundamentally different ways of collecting information on infection rates.

Continence and Stoma Review

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what role Deloitte MCS has played in the continence and stoma review; whether payment by results was included in the contract between his Department and Deloitte; and if he will make a statement. [161371]

Mr. Bradshaw: Deloitte are acting as advisers to the Department on this review. The contract between the Department and its adviser is commercial and in confidence.

Dementia

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the *(a)* prevalence and *(b)* cost of treating dementia in England in the latest period for which figures are available. [161574]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department has not made a recent estimate of the prevalence and cost of dementia. Expenditure on social care for people with dementia is not held centrally but an estimate of national health service expenditure on mental health (including dementia) is available from the programme budgeting returns. This shows that in the 2005-06 financial year, gross expenditure on mental health was estimated at £8.5 billion, with £0.9 billion of this total made up of spend on dementia.

Estimates for the prevalence and costs of dementia in England are contained in the Dementia UK report generated by the London School of Economics and the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College, London and published by the Alzheimer's Society. This estimates that there are 560,000 people with dementia in England. The same report estimates that dementia costs the economy £14.3 billion per year; this includes costs to health and social care services, direct spending on services by families, and the costs of support provided by directly by family carers.

Dental Services

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of people using NHS dentists as a percentage of the population in *(a)* East Midlands, *(b)* East of England, *(c)* London, *(d)* North East, *(e)* North West, *(f)* South Central, *(g)* South East Coast, *(h)* South West, *(i)* West Midlands and *(j)* Yorkshire and the Humber strategic health authority area. [159531]

Ann Keen: The numbers of patients seen in the 24-month period ending 31 March 2007 expressed as a percentage of the population are available in Tables C1 and C2 of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England 2006-07" report.

Information is available at strategic health authority and primary care trust area in England.

This report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

Dental Services: Greater London

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of the population in each London borough are registered with a *(a)* dentist and *(b)* GP practice. [157391]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information about the percentage population registered with dentists and general practitioners is not held centrally by the Department.

With regard to dentists, since April 2006, patients no longer have to be registered with a dental practice to receive national health service care and treatment.

The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') in a given area over a 24-month period, expressed as a percentage of the estimated population for that area. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

The numbers of patients seen in the 24-month periods ending 31 March 2006 and 31 March 2007 and the number expressed as a percentage of the population are available in tables C1 and C2 of annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England 2006-07 report. Information is available at strategic health authority and primary care trust (PCT) area in England.

This report is available in the Library and is also available on-line at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

Information cannot be made available at London borough level without disproportionate cost.

With regard to GPs, GP registered populations for PCTs are available from NHS information systems. Total resident population estimates are available from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) census. However, these two data are not directly comparable for the purposes of working out a proportion of the population registered with a GP.

Data for the percentage of the population registered with a GP practice is not directly comparable due to:

people may be on a patient register after having left the country and not deregistered with their GP; similarly people may have moved to another area and not re-registered;

some patients may have more than one NHS number e.g. they may have been issued a temporary number for a short period;

a significant proportion of people registered to a GP in one PCT may be resident in another PCT, particularly in urban areas; and

immigrants may have registered with GP practices before they appear in ONS mid-year estimates.

These factors have a differential impact from place to place.

Dental Services: Wokingham and Reading

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what spare capacity, expressed in patient numbers, is available for *(a)* under 18, *(b)* over 18 fee-paying and *(c)* over 18 charge-exempt people to register with each dental practice in Wokingham; and if he will make a statement; [159526]

(2) what spare capacity, expressed in patient numbers, is available for *(a)* under 18, *(b)* over 18 fee-paying and *(c)* over 18 charge-exempt people to register with each dental practice in Reading; and if he will make a statement. [159527]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally.

Departmental Strategies

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 September 20067, *Official Report*, column 2085W, on departmental strategies, when he will publish an urgent care strategy; whether the work being undertaken by the Healthcare Commission as part of its review of urgent and emergency care will inform the urgent care strategy; and to what extent Lord Darzi will consider the provision of urgent care as part of his review of the NHS. [156746]

Mr. Bradshaw: The consultation "Direction of Travel for Urgent Care: a discussion document", asked staff and service users how urgent care services can be improved in the future to deliver a better patient experience. We will be publishing very soon a summary of the findings of this consultation along with actions we will be taking forward to support the development of urgent care services. Responses to the consultation have informed the NHS Next Stage Review, including the interim report published on 4 October 2007.

The NHS will need to take account of the findings of the Healthcare Commission's review of urgent and emergency care, when it reports.

Departments: Disabled

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which buildings occupied by his Department *(a)* are and *(b)* are not fully accessible to disabled people; and if he will make a statement. [161173]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department occupies six principal buildings, five in London and one in Leeds. All of these buildings are considered by the Department to be fully accessible to disabled persons.

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many websites his Department operates; how many it operated at 1 January 2005; and what the estimated annual cost has been of running his Department's websites in the last five years. [157893]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is unable to provide the data requested for 1 January 2005 and to gather this information would incur disproportionate costs. However, data as at 31 March 2007 is as follows:

The Department currently has ownership of two main websites. They are:

The Department of Health website: www.dh.gov.uk

NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk

In addition to the two main websites above, the Department funds and/or manages a further 111 websites.

The Department is actively engaged in reducing this number of sites, in accordance with the guidelines and timetables set for website rationalisation under Transformational Government. The Department has already shutdown 28 websites and has plans in place to terminate 52 sites out of the 111 figure above. By the end of this project in 2011, all 111 sites will either be

closed or migrated to DH.gov.uk, NHS Choices, NHS Direct, Directgov or Business Link.

To identify the number of agency and non-departmental public body websites associated with the Department of Health, which are not all directly operated by the Department, as at 1 January 2005, would incur disproportionate costs.

The annual costs for including maintenance and project costs for running the Departments websites are:

The Department's website: www.dh.gov.uk

Annual costs	*£*
2002-03	1,843,960
2003-04	2,799,800
2004-05	724,956
2005-06	1,079,222
2006-07	[1]3,913,643

[1] This includes the cost of contingency arrangements due to the late delivery of the new service, most of which will be recovered in compensation from the supplier.

The Department's website: www.nhs.uk

Annual costs	*£ million*
2005-06	1.6
2006-07	1.8

Costs for previous years are held on legacy systems and to gather this information would incur disproportionate cost.

Other Department of Health websites.

For the additional 111 sites the Department is able to provide an estimated cost for 35 of these sites.

The total estimated cost for these websites in 2006-07 was £699,134. This cost is approximate and cannot be broken down further. It is important to note that some sites include campaign expenditure and start-up funding, and therefore costs will be spread over a period of years. To assemble the statistics for previous years would incur disproportionate cost.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hits the *(a)* most popular and *(b)* least popular website run by his Department has received since 1 January 2007. [157894]

Mr. Bradshaw: The most popular DH website run by the Department since 1 January 2007 is shown in the following table:

Month (2007)	*Most popular website*	*Number of page impressions*
January	Departmental website (www.dh.gov.uk)	830,614
February	Departmental website (www.dh.gov.uk)	767,136
March	Departmental website (www.dh.gov.uk)	1,073,029
April	Departmental website (www.dh.gov.uk)	909,410
May	Departmental website (www.dh.gov.uk)	1,039,017
June	Departmental website (www.dh.gov.uk)	962,189
July	National Health Service Choices (www.nhs.uk)	1,341,993
August	NHS Choices (www.nhs.uk)	1,326,862

In addition to the two websites listed above, the Department funds and/or manages a further 111 websites. To gather the monthly 'hits' data for these sites in order to determine the number of 'hits' on the least popular would incur disproportionate costs.

The Department is actively engaged in reducing this number of these sites, in accordance with the guidelines and timetables set for website rationalisation under Transformational Government. The Department has already shut down 27 websites and has plans in place to terminate 53 sites out of the 111 figure above. By the end of this project in 2011, all 111 sites will either be closed or migrated to DH.gov.uk, NHS Choices, NHS Direct, Directgov or Business Link.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many websites his Department has operated in each month since May 2005; what sites his Department currently operates; if he will list all sites his Department has (a) agreed to close and (b) agreed to close in principle; and if he will make a statement. [158471]

Mr. Bradshaw: Department currently has ownership of two main websites. They are:

The Department's website: www.dh.gov.uk

NHS Choices: www.nhs.uk

In addition to the two main websites, the Department on, 31 March 2007, identified a further 111 websites that it currently funds and/or manages.

Of these, the Department has:

agreed to close 52 sites and has a firm date/plan to do so.

agreed in principle to close 56 sites but has not yet brokered this with the relevant stakeholders; and

identified three sites that are part-funded by the Department and are under further investigation

A breakdown is provided in the following table.

Also, the Department's campaign sites (which were previously planned for exemption status) will also be attached to a larger national health service entity or other sites, as appropriate.

These are:

www.condomessentialwear.co.uk (previously www.playingsafely.co.uk)

www.stayinghard.co.uk

www.gosmokefree.co.uk

www.uglysmoking.co.uk

To gather month-by-month data since May 2005 will incur disproportionate cost.

Sites the Department has agreed to close, and has firm plans and a firm date to do so

	Websites
Information	www.info.ddh.gov.uk/hscd/nhsft.nsf
NHS—Protocol Based Care	www.modern.nhs.uk/protocolbasedcare
Asthma Management	www.asthmar-d.org.uk
Bug Investigators	www.buginvestigators.co.uk
Carers Government	www.carers.gov.uk
Centre for Healthcare Architecture and Design	www.chad.dh.gov.uk
Chief Medical Officer's website survey	www.info.doh.gov.uk/cmo/cmosur01.nsf/frmcmosurvey?openform
Childcare co-ordinators database	e.doh.gov.uk/childcarecoordinators/search.asp
Children's National Service Framework	www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/nsfrusers.nsf/Main?readForm
Clean Hospitals	www.cleanhospitals.com
Departmental Publications	www.publications.doh.gov.uk
Departmental tag team disc	www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/tagteamdisc.nsf/main?readform&login
DVTA	www.dvta.nhs.uk
Emergency care discussion forum	www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/emergencycareforum.nsf/
End of life care	www.endoflifecare.nhs.uk
Health at work	www.healthatwork.nhs.uk
Health in prisons	www.hipp-europe.org
Independence, well-being and choice, a Green Paper on Adult Social Care: Format Request	www.info.doh.gov.uk/ASC/ASCGP01.nsf/frmMedReq?OpenForm
Inspection of Social Care Services for Disabled People	www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/nursinglistdiscuss.nsf
Inspection of Social Care Services for Disabled People	www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/scrquest.nsf/home?readform
Leadership through effective people management	www.hrmdev.com
Letters and circulars	www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/coin4.nsf/circulars?readform
Media Centre	www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/intpress.nsf/page/2002-0531?opendocument
Minority Health	www.minorityhealth.gov.uk
National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Services	www.childrensnsfcasestudies.dh.gov.uk/children/nsfcasestudies.nsf
NatPaCT	www.natpact.nhs.uk
NHS Equality	www.equality.nhs.uk
NHS Estates-Decontamination	www.decontamination.nhsestates.gov.uk
NHS Estates Chad	www.nhsestates/chad/chad content/home/asp
NHS Fellowships	www.nhs.uk/fellowships
NHS Graduates	www.graduates.modern.nhs.uk
NHS Organ Donor	www.nhs.uk/organdonor/thesolution
NHS Research Ethics Committee Application Form	www.corecform.org.uk
NHSU	www.nhsu.nhs.uk
Nursing Leadership	www.nursingleadership.co.uk
Out of Hours	www.out-of-hours.info
Playing Safely	www.playingsafely.co.uk
Protection of children Act Tribunal [1]	www.pocat.gov.uk
Royal Commission—Elderly	www. royal-commission-elderly.gov.uk
The Big Quit	www.thebigquit.co.uk.
Wrecked	www.wrecked.co.uk
www.haznet.org.uk	www.haznet.org.uk
www.hcsambassadors.org	www.hcsambassadors.org
Your Life	www.yourlife.nhs.uk
National Research Register	www.nrr.nhs.uk
RD Info	www.rdinfo.org.uk
RD Learning	www.rdlearning.org.uk
RDDirect	www.rddirect.org.uk
Research Findings Register	www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/refr_web.nsf/Home?OpenForm
Research Findings Register	www.refer.nhs.uk
York CRD	www.york.ac.uk/inst/crd/index.htm
Forensic Mental Health	www.nfmhp.org.uk/index.htm
Health Impact Gateway	www.hiagateway.org.uk

[1] site closed since publication of progress report.

Sites the Department has agreed in principle to close but has not brokered this with its stakeholders and/or does not have firm plans/firm date to do so yet:

	Websites
18 Weeks	www.18weeks.nhs.uk
Activity DataBase	www.adb.dh.gov.uk
Advisory Bodies	www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk
Better Hospital Food [1]	www.betterhospitalfood.com
Breast feeding	www.breastfeeding.nhs.uk
CMO Update Registration	www.info.doh.gov.uk/cmo/CMOUpdate.nsf/RegistrationMenu?Open
Departmental Thesaurus	www.multites.com/dhthesaurus
Drug Education and Prevention Information Service (DEPIS)	www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/depisusers.nsf/Main?readForm
Editorial Library	www.editoriallibrary.nhs.uk
European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)	www.new-ehic.org.uk
Face It	www.hepc.nhs.uk
Finance Manual	www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/finman.nsf
Five a day	www.5aday.nhs.uk
Healthy Start	www.healthystart.nhs.uk
Healthy Start	www.hsru.co.uk
http://194.200.241.107/fd/finallow.nsf/main?readform	http://194.200.241.107/fd/finallow.nsf/main?readform
Immunisation Group Web Programme (IGWP)	www.info.doh.gov.uk/Cvts/VTSPCW.nsf
Information Asset Register	www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/iar.nsf?open
Internal Guidance	www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/notice.nsf/frames2?openform
Knowledge and information portal	www.estatesknowledge.dh.gov.uk
Mosaic	www.mosaic.nhs.uk
National Leadership Network	www.nationalleadershipnetwork.org
National Service Framework for Older People—Older People Champions	www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/oldpeople.nsf/main?readform
NHS Decontamination Training Programme	www.decontaminationtraining.nhsestates.gov.uk
NHS Factsheets	www.info.doh.gov.uk/nhsfactsheets.nsf
NHS Identity	www.nhsidentity.nhs.uk
NHS Photo Library	www.photolibrary.nhs.uk
NHS Plus	www.nhsplus.nhs.uk
OneDesign	www.design.dh.gov.uk
Pathology Discussion Forum	www.info.doh.gov.uk/pathology/patdis01.nsf
Performance Data	www.performance.doh.gov.uk
Primary Care	www.primarycare.nhsestates.gov.uk
ProCure21	www.nhs-procure21.gov.uk
Public Health Link	www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/embroadcast.nsf
Putting Action On Health Inequalities Into Practice	www.info.doh.gov.uk/publichealth/hidis.nsf
Renal Learning Sets Discussion Forum	www.info.doh.gov.uk/renalnsf/renaltrans.nsf
Safety Alert Broadcast System	www.info.doh.gov.uk/sar/cmopatie.nsf
Sector 64 Grants	www.info.doh.gov.uk/Sect64/S64users.nsf
Senior Dental Leadership Team Website	www.info.doh.gov.uk/nhs/cdoweb.nsf/Main?OpenFrameset
Social Care Careers	www.socialcarecareers.co.uk
Social Work and Care	www.socialworkandcare.co.uk
Social Work Careers	www.socialworkcareers.co.uk
Treatment Centres	www.treatmentcentres.org.uk
www.info.doh.gov.uk/alb/albchange.nsf	www.info.doh.gov.uk/alb/albchange.nsf
www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/nhslift.nsf/main?readform	www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/nhslift.nsf/main?readform
www.nhsprocure21.dh.gov.uk	www.nhsprocure21.dh.gov.uk
Policy Research Programme	www.info.doh.gov.uk/doh/rd2policy.nsf
Drugs Misuse Research Initiative	www.mdx.ac.uk/www/drugsmisuse/
Information and Communication Technology Research Initiative	www.disco.port.ac.uk/ictri
Involve	www.invo.org.uk
National Co-ordinating Centre for Research Methodology	www.pcpoh.bham.ac.uk/publichealth/nccrm/index.htm
National Horizon Scanning Centre	www.pcpoh.bham.ac.uk/publichealth/horizon/
The National Coordinating Centre for Research Capacity Development	www.nccrcd.nhs.uk

Website rationalisation progress report—March 31, 2007

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the name is of each special adviser in his Department. [153086]

Dawn Primarolo: The annual list of special adviser names will be published shortly.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1873W on departments: public expenditure, if he will list those items of specific guidance which relate to spending reviews. [159839]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Treasury provides numerous pieces of written and oral guidance in the course of each spending review. It would not be practical to trace and list each individual piece of guidance.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the draft of his Department's Policy Costing Handbook dated 7 March, if he will list his Department's improvement objectives as referred to on page 6; [159971]

(2) pursuant to the presentation entitled Policy Costing Overview given at the Financial Management and Reporting Steering Group meeting on 23 March 2007, for what reason his Department's relationship with HM Treasury needed to be restored. [159973]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following six areas were identified for the 2006-07 planning round from work commissioned on business improvement and the staff listening events in 2005.

improving the way the Department delivers policy;

improving the Department's system leadership and support;

improving the Department's service to Ministers and the public;

improving as an organisation to do business with;

improving as a place to work; and

improving how the Department manages our work.

This reference to restoring the relationship was made in connection with the need to ensure that HM Treasury could place reliance on the existence of an independent financial challenge function in the Department.

Diabetes

Mr. Skinner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* adults and *(b)* children have been (i) diagnosed with and (ii) treated for diabetes in the last five years. [161059]

Ann Keen: The total number of patients aged 17 and over on practice registers in England who have an appropriate diabetes diagnosis is shown as follows for 2004-05 to 2006-07. These figures are cumulative, rather than representing new diagnoses.

	Number of people (million)
2004-05	1.77
2005-06	1.89
2006-07	1.96

Source:
Quality and Outcomes Framework, Information Centre for health and social care 2004-05 to 2006-07.

In the United Kingdom, the number of children under the age of 15 with type 1 diabetes is estimated to be 20,000.

Once an individual has been diagnosed with diabetes they will be able to access support and treatment to manage their condition. The Diabetes National Service Framework, published in 2001, sets out the 12 standards of diabetes care that every primary care trust should aim to meet.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many persons with diabetes were hospitalised as a result of *(a)* eating and *(b)* drinking products labelled sugar free that included sucrose and other high levels of sugar in the last 12 months; what recent discussions he has had with food manufacturers on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [161096]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the number of people with diabetes hospitalised as a result of consuming products labelled sugar free is not collected centrally.

As of 1 July 2007 new European Union Regulation 1924/2006 on nutrition and health claims made on foods means that the claim 'sugar free' can only be made on products which contain no more than 0.5 g of sugars per 100 g or 100 ml. The Food Standards Agency has not had any recent discussions with food manufacturers about this issue.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* males and *(b)* females were diagnosed with diabetes in (i) Southend, (ii) each borough in Essex, (iii) each borough in Kent, (iv) the Metropolitan Police area of London and (v) England in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by age group. [161098]

Ann Keen: The following table shows the number of patients of 17 years and over diagnosed with diabetes, as identified by General Practitioner (GP) practices in Essex, Kent and London strategic health authorities, and in England, in the last three years. These figures are cumulative, rather than representing new diagnoses. Figures broken down by age group and gender are not available.

Detailed figures for Essex, Kent and London by primary care trust:

	Strategic health authority[1]	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Q03	Essex	53,107	58,110
Q18	Kent and Medway	56,092	59,627
Q05	North Central London	42,615	44,358
Q06	North East London	66,488	71,062
Q04	North West London	73,501	77,805
Q07	South East London	52,257	56,030

	Strategic health authority[1]	2004-05	2005-06
Q08	South West London	43,666	46,622
	England	1,760,000	1,890,000

[1] Based on old strategic health authority boundaries . *Source:* Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF data). Information Centre for health and social care, 2004-05 and 2005-06.

	Strategic health authority[1]	2006-07
Q35	East of England Strategic Health Authority	202,796
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	300,567
Q37	South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	152,785
	England	1,960,000

[1] Based on new strategic health authority boundaries from 2006. *Source:* Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF data). Information Centre for health and social care, 2006-07.

Patients with diabetes aged under 17 are not included because they are regarded as receiving their diabetes management in the secondary care sector.

Number of patients 17 years and over diagnosed with diabetes identified by GP practices in England, Essex, Kent and London, 2004-05 to 2006-07

	Strategic health authority		Primary care trust	2004-05	2005-06
Q03	Essex	5GR	Basildon	3,571	4,081
Q03	Essex	TAG	Braintree Care Trust	4,407	4,804
Q03	Essex	5GP	Brentwood Billericay and Wickford	3,970	4,386
Q03	Essex	5JP	Castle Point and Rochford	5,246	5,763
Q03	Essex	5JN	Chelmsford	4,153	4,454
Q03	Essex	5GM	Colchester	4,516	5,147
Q03	Essex	5AJ	Epping Forest	3,506	3,810
Q03	Essex	5DC	Harlow	3,141	3,289
Q03	Essex	5GL	Maldon and South Chelmsford	2,447	2,674
Q03	Essex	5AK	Southend	5,193	5,786
Q03	Essex	5AH	Tendring	6,026	6,390
Q03	Essex	5GQ	Thurrock	4,849	5,330
Q03	Essex	5GN	Uttlesford	2,082	2,196
Q03	Essex			53,107	58,110
Q18	Kent and Medway	5LL	Ashford	3,488	3,788
Q18	Kent and Medway	5LM	Canterbury and Coastal	6,010	6,370
Q18	Kent and Medway	5CM	Dartford Gravesham and Swanley	8,080	8,443
Q18	Kent and Medway	5LN	East Kent Coastal	9,201	9,749
Q18	Kent and Medway	5L2	Maidstone Weald	7,532	8,020
Q18	Kent and Medway	5L3	Medway	8,919	9,667
Q18	Kent and Medway	5LP	Shepway	3,861	4,047
Q18	Kent and Medway	5FF	South West Kent	5,428	5,676
Q18	Kent and Medway	5L4	Swale	3,573	3,867
Q18	Kent and Medway			56,092	59,627
Q05	North Central London	5A9	Barnet	12,178	12,915
Q05	North Central London	5K7	Camden	5,691	5,893
Q05	North Central London	5C1	Enfield	9,708	10,588
Q05	North Central London	5C9	Haringey	8,989	8,468
Q05	North Central London	5K8	Islington	6,049	6,494
Q05	North Central London			42,615	44,358
Q06	North East London	5C2	Barking and Dagenham	6,122	6,546
Q06	North East London	5C3	City and Hackney Primary Care Team	8,644	8,676
Q06	North East London	5A4	Havering	8,306	8,924
Q06	North East London	5C5	Newham Primary Care Team	13,805	14,596
Q06	North East London	SNA	Redbridge	10,133	11,802
Q06	North East London	5C4	Tower Hamlets Primary Care Team	9,402	9,812
Q06	North East London	5NC	Waltham Forest	10,076	10,706
Q06	North East London			66,488	71,062
Q04	North West London	5K5	Brent	15,236	15,928
Q04	North West London	5HX	Ealing	14,409	15,418
Q04	North West London	5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham	4,961	5,236
Q04	North West London	5K6	Harrow	10,233	10,846

Number of patients 17 years and over diagnosed with diabetes identified by GP practices in England, Essex, Kent and London, 2004-05 to 2006-07

	Strategic health authority		*Primary care trust*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Q04	North West London	SAT	Hillingdon	9,154	9,701
Q04	North West London	SHY	Hounslow	9,180	9,794
Q04	North West London	5LA	Kensington and Chelsea	4,117	4,436
Q04	North West London	5LC	Westminster	6,211	6,446
Q04	North West London			73,501	77,805
Q07	South East London	TAK	Bexley Care Trust	7,589	8,240
Q07	South East London	5A7	Bromley	9,244	10,084
Q07	South East London	5A8	Greenwich	7,443	8,072
Q07	South East London	5LD	Lambeth	9,875	10,179
Q07	South East London	5LF	Lewisham	9,347	10,161
Q07	South East London	5LE	Southwark	8,759	9,294
Q07	South East London			52,257	56,030
Q08	South West London	5K9	Croydon	13,052	13,915
Q08	South West London	5A5	Kingston	5,109	5,478
Q08	South West London	5M6	Richmond and Twickenham	4,235	4,413
Q08	South West London	5M7	Sutton and Merton	12,414	13,406
Q08	South West London	5LG	Wandsworth	8,856	9,410
Q08	South West London			43,666	46,622
	England			1,760,000	1,890,000

Source:
Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF data).Information Centre for health and social care, 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Number of patients 17 years and over diagnosed with diabetes identified by GP practices in England, Essex, Kent and London, 2006-07

	Strategic health authority		*Primary care trust*	*2006-07*
Q35	East of England Strategic Health Authority	5P2	Bedfordshire PCT	14,970
Q35	East of England Strategic Health Authority	5PP	Cambridgeshire PCT	19,579
Q35	East of England Strategic Health Authority	5P3	East and North Hertfordshire PCT	18,244
Q35	East of England Strategic Health Authority	5PR	Great Yarmouth And Waveney Teaching PCT	9,173
Q35	East of England Strategic Health Authority	5GC	Luton	8,092
Q35	East of England Strategic Health Authority	5PX	Mid Essex PCT	12,405
Q35	East of England Strategic Health Authority	5PQ	Norfolk Primary Care Trust	27,486
Q35	East of England Strategic Health Authority	5PW	North East Essex PCT	12,433
Q35	East of England Strategic Health Authority	5PN	Peterborough PCT	6,279
Q35	East of England Strategic Health Authority	5P1	South East Essex PCT	12,499
Q35	East of England Strategic Health Authority	SPY	South West Essex PCT	14,298
Q35	East of England Strategic Health Authority		5PT Suffolk PCT	20,590
Q35	East of England Strategic Health Authority	5PV	West Essex PCT	9,713
Q35	East of England Strategic Health Authority	5P4	West Hertfordshire PCT	17,035
Q35	East of England Strategic Health Authority			202,796
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5C2	Barking and Dagenham PCT	6,816
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5A9	Barnet Primary Care Trust	13,351
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	TAK	Bexley Care Trust	8,503
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5K5	Brent PCT	16,068
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5A7	Bromley PCT	10,520
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5K7	Camden Primary Care Trust	5,840
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5C3	City And Hackney Primary Care Team	9,257
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5K9	Croydon Primary Care Trust	14,238
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5HX	Ealing PCT	15,703
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5C1	Enfield PCT	10,176
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5A8	Greenwich PCT	8,296
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5H1	Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	5,268
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5C9	Haringey PCT	9,484
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5K6	Harrow PCT	11,242
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5A4	Havering PCT	9,281
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5AT	Hillingdon PCT	10,246
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5HY	Hounslow PCT	9,780

Number of patients 17 years and over diagnosed with diabetes identified by GP practices in England, Essex, Kent and London, 2006-07

	Strategic health authority		*Primary care trust*	*2006-07*
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5K8	Islington Primary Care Trust	6,513
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5LA	Kensington and Chelsea PCT	4,207
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5A5	Kingston	5,629
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5LD	Lambeth PCT	10,456
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5LF	Lewisham PCT	10,662
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5C5	Newham Primary Care Team	14,809
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5NA	Redbridge PCT	11,414
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5M6	Richmond and Twickenham	4,556
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5LE	Southwark PCT	9,135
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	13,529
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5C4	Tower Hamlets Primary Care Team	9,941
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5NC	Waltham Forest PCT	9,931
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5LG	Wandsworth PCT	9,294
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority	5LC	Westminster PCT	6,422
Q36	London Strategic Health Authority			300,567
Q37	South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	5LQ	Brighton And Hove City Teaching PCT	7,839
Q37	South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	5P7	East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	12,186
Q37	South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	5QA	Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	28,913
Q37	South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	5P8	Hastings and Rother PCT	6,882
Q37	South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	5L3	Medway PCT	10,377
Q37	South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	5P5	Surrey PCT	34,823
Q37	South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	5P9	West Kent PCT	23,082
037	South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	5P6	West Sussex PCT	28,683
Q37	South East Coast Strategic Health Authority			152,785
	England			1,960,000

Source:
Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF data). Information Centre for health and social care, 2006-07.

Diabetes: Children

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of children who were diagnosed with diabetes in *(a)* Southend, *(b)* each borough in Essex, *(c)* each borough in Kent, *(d)* the Metropolitan Police area of London and *(e)* England in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by age group. [161093]

Ann Keen: This information is not available in the format requested. Current estimates suggest that there are approximately 20,000 children with Type 1 diabetes under the age of 15 in the United Kingdom. Estimates of the number of children with Type 2 diabetes vary, but in the UK it has been suggested that there may be as many as 1,400 children and young people with Type 2 diabetes.

Diabetes: Eastern Region

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with diabetes in *(a)* East of England and *(b)* Suffolk in each of the last five years. [161192]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows data on the number of patients on diabetes registers in general practices, available from the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) data available on the Information Centre website but only for the financial years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07.

	2006-07		*2005-06*		*2004-05*	
	Patients	*Identified prevalence (Percentage)*	*Patients*	*Identified prevalence (Percentage)*	*Patients*	*Identified prevalence (Percentage)*
East of England SNA	202,796	3.5	—	—	—	—
Suffolk PCT	20,590	3.4	—	—	—	—
East of England SNA	—	—	194,917	3.4	181,928	3.2
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	—	—	80,190	3.5	75,633	3.3
Essex	—	—	58,110	3.4	53,107	3.1
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	—	—	56,617	3.2	53,188	3.1
Suffolk PCT Total	—	—	19,755	3.3	18,491	3.2
Central Suffolk	—	—	3,398	3.3	3,220	3.1

	2006-07		2005-06		2004-05	
	Patients	Identified prevalence (Percentage)	Patients	Identified prevalence (Percentage)	Patients	Identified prevalence (Percentage)
Ipswich	—	—	5,023	3.3	4,714	3.1
Suffolk Coastal	—	—	3,473	3.4	3,103	3.2
Suffolk West	—	—	7,861	3.4	7,454	3.2

Notes:

Due to changes in strategic health authority (SHA) and primary care trust (PCT) configurations, and the fact that East of England SHA and Suffolk PCT only came into existence in 2006, the figures quoted for 2005-06 and 2004-05 were originally for the old SHAs (Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire, Essex and Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire) and PCTs (Central Suffolk, Ipswich, Suffolk Coastal and Suffolk West) that were in existence at the time have been summed to give figures for the new bodies.

Diabetes Prevalence

The disease register in QOF for diabetes does not include any patient below the age of 17. However, the denominator is all registered patients. This means that the reported prevalence is lower than the actual value.

Coverage of QOF

Patients will only contribute to the figures in QOF if they are registered with a general practice participating in QOF. Not all practices participate in QOF and some participate in only some parts (especially PMS practices who are paid under different arrangements for providing services which are part of QOF for CMS practices). Most indicators in QOF have rules which allow for patients to be excluded (e.g. patient refuses treatment) and so the denominator for a given indicator may be less than the number of patients on the register for that disease. Note also that some indicators have age limits and so exclude some patients on the register.

Source:

Information Centre for health and social care.

Diabetes: Research

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research has been *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated by his Department on the causes of type 1 diabetes; and if he will make a statement. [161097]

Dawn Primarolo: The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC supports a portfolio of research relating to diabetes. Expenditure on the portfolio in 2005-06 was £13.9 million.

The Department funds national health service research and development through the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR). The Institute's Diabetes Research Network, one of six topic specific networks, brings together NHS staff and resources to support randomised controlled trials and other well-designed studies for commercial and non-commercial sponsors. These include a study of the epigenetics of type 1 diabetes using identical twins. The NIHR is investing £20 million over five years in the network.

The Department also funds the Yorkshire register of diabetes in children and young people. Data derived from the register are used in epidemiological studies and in aetiological research, and contributes to the European study of childhood type 1 diabetes.

Dietary Supplements

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date Ministers from his Department next plan to meet representatives of the Health Food Manufacturers Association to discuss progress in implementation of the Food Supplements Directive. [161538]

Dawn Primarolo: There is currently no date planned for Ministers to meet with representatives of the Health Food Manufactures Association to discuss progress in implementation of the Food Supplements Directive.

Elderly: Malnutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1306-7W, on the elderly: malnutrition, when he plans to publish his Department's nutrition action plan. [161780]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The nutrition action plan will be published tomorrow and there will be an ongoing monitoring of how stakeholders and their work have contributed to the aims of the plan by a nutrition action plan delivery board.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many deaths were caused by malnutrition among those aged over 65 years in the last 10 years, broken down by age and region; and if he will make a statement. [160867]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Colin Mowl, dated 29 October 2007:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths were caused by malnutrition among those aged over 65 years in the last 10 years, broken down by age and region. I am replying in her absence. (160867)

The attached table provides the numbers of deaths where malnutrition or effects of hunger were mentioned on the death certificate, by age group for persons aged 65 years and over, for each government office region in England, and for Wales, for the years 1997 to 2006 (the latest year available).

Table 1. Deaths from malnutrition and effects of hunger[1], persons aged 65 and over by age group, by Government office region in England[2], and Wales, 1997-2006[3]

	Deaths (persons)				
	Age (years)				
	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+
North East					
1997	3	3	4	2	3
1998	2	1	—	2	7

Table 1. Deaths from malnutrition and effects of hunger[1], persons aged 65 and over by age group, by Government office region in England[2], and Wales, 1997-2006[3]

Deaths (persons)

	Age (years)				
	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+
1999	1	2	3	3	5
2000	4	5	2	4	5
2001	3	2	5	2	8
2002	2	2	6	3	6
2003	1	1	—	2	9
2004	2	—	3	4	1
2005	1	1	3	2	4
2006	1	1	5	5	7
North West					
1997	2	6	4	8	9
1998	5	1	3	7	11
1999	6	4	5	4	7
2000	2	6	4	2	8
2001	2		4	6	8
2002	2	4	3	7	9
2003	1	6	7	3	8
2004	3	4	10	7	9
2005	2	7	5	7	6
2006	4	—	5	4	8
Yorkshire and the Humber					
1997	—	6	3	8	12
1998	3	2	4	5	9
1999	4	3	1	6	6
2000	1	1	4	3	6
2001	2	3	3	3	4
2002	3	3	3	1	5
2003	1	4	3	6	10
2004	2	3	4	—	4
2005	1	2	1	3	4
2006	4	2	2	3	6
East Midlands					
1997	2	3	3	2	2
1998	2	3	4	11	9
1999	2	3	2	6	10
2000	2	4	5	3	10
2001	1	3	3	3	4
2002	1	5	1	5	3
2003	1	2	3	1	7
2004	3	4	1	5	5
2005	1	6	3	7	6
2006	2	1	7	6	7
West Midlands					
1997	6	3	12	12	21
1998	3	9	5	7	10
1999	2	8	5	10	20
2000	4	7	9	8	8
2001	3	2	6	4	9
2002	5	2	6	11	12
2003	1	4	6	7	7
2004	2	3	12	10	10

Table 1. Deaths from malnutrition and effects of hunger[1], persons aged 65 and over by age group, by Government office region in England[2], and Wales, 1997-2006[3]

Deaths (persons)

	Age (years)				
	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+
2005	3	2	2	6	4
2006	3	7	12	2	6
East of England					
1997	0	5	5	4	7
1998	3	0	4	5	8
1999	3	4	5	6	11
2000	2	1	3	5	10
2001	0	4	8	6	6
2002	4	4	4	6	10
2003	1	1	2	4	3
2004	2	2	2	3	6
2005	1	3	2	10	17
2006	3	5	3	4	7
London					
1997	5	1	2	6	12
1998	2	5	7	6	8
1999	3	4	7	9	11
2000	2	1	5	4	10
2001	0	0	8	3	6
2002	1	2	4	7	4
2003	3	2	4	2	6
2004	2	2	1	0	5
2005	0	3	1	2	5
2006	6	2	2	1	8
South East					
1997	3	3	6	5	14
1998	3	6	4	5	10
1999	1	9	6	7	13
2000	4	2	12	3	11
2001	1	2	3	7	8
2002	4	2	3	6	14
2003	2	2	7	4	8
2004	2	3	3	9	11
2005	3	5	5	9	10
2006	3	9	7	10	18
South West					
1997	2	6	5	6	23
1998	3	3	10	7	21
1999	5	2	7	6	5
2000	4	5	6	5	15
2001	5	0	6	1	10
2002	1	3	5	3	8
2003	1	2	5	4	5
2004	2	2	4	9	14
2005	3	3	5	6	5
2006	2	5	6	4	12
Wales					
1997	1	0	6	4	1
1998	1	2	5	5	9
1999	1	4	2	9	5
2000	2	0	4	4	7

Table 1. Deaths from malnutrition and effects of hunger[1], persons aged 65 and over by age group, by Government office region in England[2], and Wales, 1997-2006[3]

	Deaths (persons)				
	Age (years)				
	65-69	70-74	75-79	80-84	85+
2001	0	3	3	7	9
2002	0	4	3	4	9
2003	3	0	7	3	8
2004	1	1	5	3	5
2005	1	4	3	3	8
2006	4	3	3	8	9

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes 260-269 (malnutrition) and E904.1 (effects of hunger) for the years 1997 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes E40-E46 (malnutrition) and T73.0 (effects of hunger) for 2001 onwards. Deaths were included where one of these causes was mentioned anywhere on the death certificate. The introduction of ICD-10 in 2001 means that the numbers of deaths from each cause before 2001 are not completely comparable with later years.
[2] Based on boundaries as of 2007.
[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many elderly people were diagnosed as suffering from malnutrition, broken down by *(a)* region, *(b)* age and *(c)* length of stay in a healthcare facility; and if he will make a statement. [160868]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information by region, age and length of stay in a healthcare facility is not held centrally.

The following table shows the available information for people aged 65 or more by length of hospital stay in each strategic health authority area in 2005-06. The figures include instances where there was either a primary or a secondary diagnosis of malnutrition. They would therefore include patients who were admitted to hospital for a reason other than malnutrition but were subsequently diagnosed as malnourished.

Number and median length of hospital stays in which the patient age 65 and over had a primary or secondary diagnosis of malnutrition in the final (discharge) episode (ICD-10 codes between E40 to E46)—NHS hospitals in England, discharges in 2005-06

Strategic health authority (SHA) of residence	Discharge episodes	Median length of stay (days)
Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire SHA	51	16
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire SHA	29	18
Essex SHA	31	20
North West London SHA	53	23
North Central London SHA	28	28
North East London SHA	27	12
South East London SHA	36	27
South West London SHA	21	23
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA	34	16
County Durham and Tees Valley SHA	12	7
North and East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire SHA	19	18
West Yorkshire SHA	37	18
Cumbria and Lancashire SHA	20	20
Greater Manchester SHA	60	18
Cheshire and Merseyside SHA	32	26
Thames Valley SHA	36	18
Hampshire and Isle of Wight SHA	63	35
Kent and Medway SHA	29	15
Surrey and Sussex SHA	55	22
Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire SHA	50	19
South West Peninsula SHA	65	14
Dorset and Somerset SHA	42	22
South Yorkshire SHA	20	12
Trent SHA	46	24
Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland SHA	34	13
Shropshire and Staffordshire SHA	24	10
Birmingham and the Black Country SHA	93	14
West Midlands South SHA	15	32
Wales	2	79
England—not otherwise specified	3	61
Unknown	6	21
England	1,073	19

Notes:
1. Discharges
A discharge episode is the last episode during a spell, where the patient is discharged from the hospital (this includes transfer to another hospital).
2. Length of stay (duration of spell)
Length of stay (LOS) is calculated as the difference in days between the admission date and the discharge date, where both are given. LOS is based on the whole of the hospital spell and therefore may not be linked to malnutrition entirely. LOS only applies to ordinary admissions, i.e. day cases are excluded (unless otherwise stated). Information relating to LOS figures, including discharge method/destination, diagnoses and any operative procedures, is based only on the final episode of the spell.
3. All diagnoses count of episodes
These figures represent a count of all finished consultant episodes where the diagnosis was mentioned in any of the 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in a HES record.
4. Diagnosis (primary diagnosis)
The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
5. Secondary diagnoses
As well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 13 (six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in HES that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.
6. Malnutrition
Malnutrition is defined by a primary diagnosis between the ICD-10 codes E40-E46.
E40 Kwashiorkor
E41 Nutritional marasmus
E42 Marasmic kwashiorkor
E43 Unspecified severe protein-energy malnutrition
E44 Protein-energy malnutrition of moderate and mild degree
E45 Retarded development following protein-energy malnutrition
E46 Unspecified protein-energy malnutrition
Source:
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) in the Information Centre for health and social care.

Epsom and St. Helier Primary Care Trust: Personnel

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of staffing costs was spent on agency staff in Epsom and St. Helier Primary Care Trust in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [160862]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested by the hon. Member for national health service staff salaries and non-NHS staff salaries and percentages at Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust are provided in the following tables.

Epsom and St. Helier University Hospitals NHS trust was formed in 1999. Figures for the two predecessor trusts that formed it, Epsom Health Care NHS Trust and St. Helier NHS Trust are provided for 1997-98 and 1998-99.

		1997-98			1998-99		
Organisation code	*Organisation name*	*NHS salaries and wages (£)*	*Non-NHS salaries and wages—Agency (£)*	*Agency spend (percentage)*	*NHS salaries and wages (£)*	*Non-NHS salaries and wages—Agency (£)*	*Agency spend (percentage)*
RA1	Epsom Health Care NHS Trust	32,498,700	1,449,454	4.27	34,234,209	2,548,974	6.93
RAZ	St. Helier NHS Trust	61,454,789	1,915,077	3.02	65,032,965	2,000,378	2.98
RVR	Epsom and St. Helier NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	—	—	—	—	—	—

		1999-2000			2000-01		
Organisation code	*Organisation name*	*NHS salaries and wages (£)*	*Non-NHS salaries and wages—Agency (£)*	*Agency spend (percentage)*	*NHS salaries and wages (£)*	*Non-NHS salaries and wages—Agency (£)*	*Agency spend (percentage)*
RA1	Epsom Health Care NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—
RAZ	St. Helier NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—
RVR	Epsom and St. Helier NHS Trust	96,356,278	5,366,279	5.28	•	8,753,789	7.98
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	—	—	—	—	—	—

		2001-02			2002-03		
Organisation code	*Organisation name*	*NHS salaries and wages (£)*	*Non-NHS salaries and wages—Agency (£)*	*Agency spend (percentage)*	*NHS salaries and wages (£)*	*Non-NHS salaries and wages—Agency (£)*	*Agency spend (percentage)*
RA1	Epsom Health Care NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—
RAZ	St. Helier NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—
RVR	Epsom and St. Helier NHS Trust	112,660,180	12,725,023	10.15	116,297,994	6,623,636	5.39
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	—	—	—	33,336,796	1,827,001	5.20

		2003-04			2004-05		
Organisation code	*Organisation name*	*NHS salaries and wages (£)*	*Non-NHS salaries and wages—Agency (£)*	*Agency spend (percentage)*	*NHS salaries and wages (£)*	*Non-NHS salaries and wages—Agency (£)*	*Agency spend (percentage)*
RA1	Epsom Health Care NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—
RAZ	St. Helier NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	—	—
RVR	Epsom and St. Helier NHS Trust	132,152,995	4,048,599	2.97	155,606,000	3,085,000	1.94

		2003-04			2004-05		
Organisation code	Organisation name	NHS salaries and wages (£)	Non-NHS salaries and wages—Agency (£)	Agency spend (percentage)	NHS salaries and wages (£)	Non-NHS salaries and wages—Agency (£)	Agency spend (percentage)
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	36,789,126	2,517,461	6.40	42,926,000	3,578,000	7.69

		2005-06		
Organisation code	Organisation name	NHS salaries and wages (£)	Non-NHS salaries and wages—Agency (£)	Agency spend (percentage)
RA1	Epsom Health Care NHS Trust	—	—	—
RAZ	St. Helier NHS Trust	—	—	—
RVR	Epsom and St. Helier NHS Trust	170,027,000	3,263,000	1.88
5M7	Sutton and Merton PCT	47,461,000	2,456,000	4.92

Notes:
1. Data are not available prior to 1997-98.
2. 2006-07 financial returns are not yet available.
3. In 1999, trusts RA1 and RAZ merged to form RVR.
4. Data for Sutton and Merton PCT are not available prior to 2002-03.
5. Sutton and Merton PCT was created in 2002-03. Due to boundary changes it is not possible to identify the predecessor data for this trust.

Source:
Trust and PCT financial returns 1997-98 to 2005-06.

General Social Care Council: Information Officers

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many press officers are employed by the General Social Care Council. [154437]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I understand, after making inquiries of the General Social Care Council, that they do not employ press officers. However, they do currently employ three communications executives, who deal with the press office on a rota basis.

Their responsibilities include:

responding to telephone and e-mail inquires;

dealing with ad hoc requests;

press inquiries;

research for debates; and

liaising with the press.

Genetically Modified Organisms: EU Law

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which genetically modified products have been approved by the EU for sale in the UK. [161252]

Dawn Primarolo: EC Regulation 1829/2003 on genetically modified (GM) food and feed controls the marketing of GM products across the EU. Authorisations under this Regulation currently cover food and animal feed obtained from 12 types of GM maize, five types of GM cotton, three types of GM oilseed rape, one type of GM sugarbeet and one type of GM soya. Animal feed ingredients from two types of GM yeast are also authorised.

Genito-Urinary Medicine: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to introduce indicators of sexual health in the clinical domain of the quality and outcomes framework of the general medical services contract. [160272]

Mr. Bradshaw: NHS employers are responsible for negotiating changes to the General Medical Services contract with the British Medical Association's General Practitioners Committee, and they will be considering potential changes to the contract for 2008-09. It would be inappropriate for the Department to pre-empt the outcome of those confidential contract discussions.

Health Professions: Insurance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has issued to health trusts on arrangements to be made between trusts on individual healthcare practitioners' insurance liability when working on collaborative projects. [161262]

Ann Keen: The Department has not issued specific guidance to national health service trusts on arrangements to be made between trusts on individual healthcare practitioners' insurance liability when working on collaborative projects.

NHS bodies are vicariously liable for the negligent acts (and omissions) of their employees made during the course of their employment. An individual practitioner operating under a contract of employment with an NHS trust is covered by the indemnity of that trust. The NHS Litigation Authority provides indemnity to trusts through the schemes that it administers on behalf of the Secretary of State. These schemes pool the costs of any loss of or damage to property and liabilities to third parties for loss, damage or injury arising out of the carrying out of an NHS body's functions.

Health Professions: Personation

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many legal actions took place against people improperly using protected titles of health professions in the last 12 months. [159429]

Ann Keen: The NHS Counter Fraud and Security Management Service investigate cases of improper use of titles of health professions. Where appropriate, legal action may follow these investigations but no such actions have been concluded in the last 12 months.

Health Services

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the establishment of polyclinics on access to care in areas of greatest need. [158750]

Mr. Bradshaw: Polyclinics were advocated in the "Healthcare for London" report. This was an independent piece of work carried out by Lord Darzi before he became a Government Minister. These proposals are now being consulted on within London prior to implementation. It would be good practice for any polyclinic developments to be accompanied by a detailed local assessment of how they will improve access and meet the population's needs.

Health Services: Fraud

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will ensure that no healthcare organisations indicted for fraud against the federal or state governments in the US are given contracts to provide services for the NHS or NHS patients; [159277]

(2) if he will ensure that no healthcare organisations found by US federal audits to have practised deceptive sales tactics on Medicare or Medicaid recipients will be given contracts to provide services for the NHS or NHS patients. [159278]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 22 October 2007]:* In purchasing goods and services for the national health service, the Department is subject to all European Union (EU) public procurement regulations. The rules compel the Department to advertise, negotiate and award any proposed contract in accordance with the legal procedure set out in the regulations. This ensures that the process is fair, transparent and non-discriminatory. The regulations require that as part of due diligence all participating organisations must complete a pre-qualification questionnaire (PQQ) to ensure that they are suitable to play a role in the NHS.

In the case of our central procurements, the Department of Health's Commercial Directorate has always contracted with United Kingdom corporate bodies. These UK entities undergo financial due diligence to assess their financial standing and their ability and technical capacity to provide the services. We also ask the bidders as part of the PQQ to confirm whether there are any factors which would exclude them under the EU criteria (grave misconduct, criminal offences etc.).

Under EU procurement guidelines, bodies are permitted to exclude a company that has been convicted of a criminal offence or grave professional misconduct in relation to the conduct of their business.

Health Services: Pharmacy

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the establishment of polyclinics on the existing pharmacy network. [158740]

Mr. Bradshaw: Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for providing, or securing the provision of primary medical services within their area, to the extent they consider necessary to meet all reasonable requirements. In exercising these duties, PCTs will need to consider both the location and capacity of local primary medical services. They are also responsible for ensuring the adequate provision of national health service pharmaceutical services. The Government are committed to publishing a White Paper on pharmacy services, which may consider these issues further. The Government have also indicated that, as part of the NHS Next Stage Review, the Department will work with public and professional stakeholders to develop a wider strategy for primary care and community services.

Health Services: Private Sector

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many contracts there are for primary care trusts (PCTs) to purchase elective procedures from independent sector treatment providers in Cornwall; for how long each contract lasts; and how much each contract will cost the local PCT for *(a)* each year and *(b)* over the full length of the contract. [160425]

Mr. Bradshaw: There is one contract for a treatment centre to provide services for patients referred by Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust under the nationally procured Independent Sector Treatment Centre programme. The centre is the Bodmin National Health Service Treatment Centre. The contract will last for just over four years.

Financial information relating to contracts is currently commercially confidential. The Department is currently reviewing its policy on the information it releases in relation to phase one contracts.

Health Services: Rehabilitation

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the additional funding for therapies announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review is planned to be allocated to the rehabilitation treatments provided by the NHS for patients with alcohol and drug dependencies. [159695]

Dawn Primarolo: The Comprehensive Spending Review, announced by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Darling) on 9 October 2007, included an additional £170 million to be spent on psychological therapies by 2010-11. This is in addition to more than £140 million already spent on psychological therapies around the country, including on patients with depression and anxiety disorders who also suffer from drug and alcohol dependencies. Final decisions have yet to be taken on the allocation of this money.

Health: Disadvantaged

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to tackle health inequalities in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [161141]

Dawn Primarolo: Health services in Scotland and Wales are a devolved matter. The following information refers only to England.

Health inequalities are unacceptable; that is why the Government have introduced the most comprehensive programme ever seen in this country to address health them.

A cross-government national health inequalities strategy, Tackling Health Inequalities: A Programme for Action, is in place to deliver the 2010 health inequalities target to narrow the gap in infant mortality, by social class, and life expectancy at birth, by geographical area. This is complemented by innovative programmes such as National Health Service Health Trainers, NHS Life Check, and Communities for Health that will examine new approaches, and are being implemented first in Spearhead areas—the local authority areas with the worst health and deprivation indicators, and the primary care trusts (PCTs) mapping to them.

The Secretary of State announced last month that the Department will publish a comprehensive strategy in 2008 for reducing health inequalities, which will address unjustified gaps in health status, fair access to NHS services for everyone and good outcomes of care for all.

The NHS in England Operating Framework 2007-08 identified tackling health inequalities as a key priority for the NHS. Incentives for the NHS and local authorities have also been aligned to encourage partnership working to deliver the 2010 target, with health inequalities a mandatory target for Spearhead PCT local delivery plans for 2007-08, and for local authority local area agreements from 2007.

The Department and the Association of Public Health Observatories have developed an interactive "Health Inequalities Intervention Tool". Launched in August 2007, and available from the London Health Observatory website, the Tool translates national modelling on what is driving the life expectancy gap into local area analysis.

The "Review of the Health Inequalities Infant Mortality PSA Target, 2007", published earlier this year, will help improve further delivery of local services to vulnerable populations by working in partnership with local government and others. An implementation plan is on schedule for publication in autumn 2007.

We have established national support teams on health inequalities and on tobacco control and smoking cessation that will disseminate best practice across Spearhead areas, and areas with high infant mortality rates, providing tailored, intensive, assistance to areas that face the biggest challenges in delivering the 2010 target.

Healthcare Commission: Manpower

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people are employed by the Healthcare Commission to deal with NHS complaints; and what the cost was of administering this function in the last 12 months. [160471]

Mr. Bradshaw: We understand from the Chairman of the Healthcare Commission that there are currently approximately 160 staff working on the independent review of NHS complaints. In 2006-07, the cost of the Commission's complaints work was £11.4 million.

Hearing Aids: Waiting Lists

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the waiting times are for digital hearing aid *(a)* assessment and *(b)* fitting in each London primary care trust; and if he will make a statement. [161532]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information requested can be found in the following table. The figure in the table is for both the assessment and the fitting. Figures are not held separately for fittings.

Audiological assessments: Number of patients waiting by London primary care trust (PCT): August 2007-08

Provider organisation name	*Provider organisation code*	*Over 13 weeks*	*Over 26 weeks*	*Over 52 weeks*	*Total*	*Median wait (weeks)*
Barking and Dagenham PCT	5C2	380	302	146	564	29.5
Barnet PCT	5A9	7	0	0	55	2.4
Bexley Care trust	TAK	35	23	4	183	7.7
Brent Teaching PCT	5K5	105	19	1	304	8.9
Bromley PCT	5A7	13	6	2	154	9.4
Camden PCT	5K7	1	0	0	28	4.8
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	5C3	0	0	0	17	2.9
Croydon PCT	5K9	723	514	129	1016	26.6
Ealing PCT	5HX	442	346	119	557	32.4
Enfield PCT	5C1	1	0	0	4	2.8
Greenwich Teaching PCT	5A8	158	100	16	293	16.8
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	5H1	1	0	0	235	8.2
Haringey Teaching PCT	5C9	2	0	0	37	5.2
Harrow PCT	5K6	151	19	0	302	13.1

Audiological assessments: Number of patients waiting by London primary care trust (PCT): August 2007-08

Provider organisation name	*Provider organisation code*	*Over 13 weeks*	*Over 26 weeks*	*Over 52 weeks*	*Total*	*Median wait (weeks)*
Havering PCT	5A4	1,362	1,087	501	1707	37.9
Hillingdon PCT	5AT	13	4	1	88	3.1
Hounslow PCT	5HY	3	2	0	16	3.6
Islington PCT	5K8	0	0	0	5	2.0
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	5LA	0	0	0	80	3.1
Kingston PCT	5A5	271	194	69	458	21.1
Lambeth PCT	5LD	213	125	35	395	14.4
Lewisham PCT	5LF	38	20	2	270	6.6
Newham PCT	5C5	0	0	0	161	2.9
Redbridge PCT	5NA	79	21	4	249	9.6
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	5M6	38	19	5	85	11.8
Southwark PCT	5LE	169	106	27	315	15.0
Sutton and Merton PCT	5M7	14	9	4	157	3.8
Tower Hamlets PCT	5C4	2	0	0	18	3.8
Waltham Forest PCT	5NC	125	46	3	367	9.7
Wandsworth PCT	5LG	57	38	4	230	5.5
Westminster PCT	5LC	4	2	1	168	3.2

Hepatitis

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many children and young people under the age of 16 years were diagnosed with hepatitis C in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement; [160518]

(2) how many people over the age of 59 years were diagnosed with hepatitis C in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [160528]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is shown in the following table. Data are only available by the under 15 age group.

Hepatitis C laboratory reports, England and Wales, by age group, 2002 to 2006.

	Under 15[1]	*Over 59*
2002	41	305
2003	24	365
2004	46	439
2005	30	410
2006	26	485

[1] This excludes children under one year of age who are positive only by antibody testing, since this may be due to passively acquired maternal antibodies, present in the child during this period. The data may include a small number of children over the age of one year who have residual maternal antibody.

Note:
Data is based on laboratory reports to the HPA.

Source:
Health Protection Agency (HPA).

Hospital Beds

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients in each hospital trust had their discharge from hospital delayed in each week *(a)* in the last 12 months and *(b)* in the preceding 12 months. [160844]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 25 October 2007]:* The information has been placed in the Library.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many bed nights in each hospital trust were spent by patients who were ready for discharge but remained in hospital in *(a)* the last 12 months and *(b)* the preceding 12 months; and what the estimated total cost to the NHS was of these delayed discharges. [160845]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 25 October 2007]:* The information has been placed in the Library.

Hospitals: Deep Cleaning

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what average length of time he expects the deep clean of a hospital to take; [159960]

(2) what his latest estimate is of the cost per hospital of his Department's hospital deep cleaning programme; and who will meet the cost of each hospital's programme; [159961]

(3) on what date his Department's deep cleaning programme for hospitals is expected *(a)* to start and *(b)* to finish. [159962]

Ann Keen: No specific date has been set for either the commencement or completion of the deep-clean programme. The delivery of this programme is entirely a matter for local determination and will be affected by a range of local factors and considerations including, but not limited to, the size, age and configuration of the hospital and the extent of the deep-cleaning necessary. It is not therefore possible to provide any estimated average of either the cost or the length of time it will take. The funding for this programme will be allocated by individual strategic health authorities.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the definition of a healthcare associated infection was in *(a)* 1980 and *(b)* 1993-94; and what definition is now in use. [159727]

Ann Keen: In the studies conducted in 1980 and 1993-94, hospital acquired infection was defined as an infection found to be active, or under active treatment at the time of the survey, which was not present on admission to hospital[1, 2].

The definition for health care associated infection (HCAI) used in the 2006 survey was the one devised by the Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, Atlanta, United States America, that is, any infection reported must meet the definition of a HCAI, that is, a local or systemic condition resulting from adverse reaction to the presence of an infectious agent(s) or its toxins. There must be no evidence that it was present or incubating at the time of hospital admission unless the infection was related to a previous admission to the same hospital (i.e. the hospital under surveillance.)[3]

Sources:

[1] Meers PD, Ayliffe GA, Emmerson AM et al. Report on the national prevalence survey of infection in hospitals 1980. J Hosp Infect 1981; s1-51.

[2] Report of a steering group. National prevalence survey of hospital-acquired infections: definitions. J Hosp Infect 1993; 24:69-76.

[3] http://www.cdc.gov/ncidod/dhqp/nhsn.htm

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library the data collected from each of the 190 acute hospitals which were surveyed as part of the Third Prevalence Survey of Healthcare Associated Infections in Acute Hospitals in England 2006, published by his Department on 12 September 2007. [159728]

Ann Keen: Participation in the Third Prevalence Survey of Healthcare Associated Infections in acute hospitals in England 2006 was voluntary and as the national data was anonymised, we do not have individual trusts data. Trusts who participated in the survey can access their own data via a secure web-based system developed by the Welsh Healthcare Associated Infection Programme.

Hospitals: Nutrition

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to ensure that NHS hospital food meets acceptable nutritional standards, with particular reference to elderly patients; and if he will make a statement. [160866]

Ann Keen: An appropriate diet, based on acceptable standards, requires good food with the right nutritional content, properly prepared and available when patients need it. The National Health Service Plan stipulated that dieticians should advise and check on nutritional values in hospital food. Nutritional information is available for all recipes in the National Dish Selector, and this can be used to assess local nutritional levels. Ingredients specifications for the recipes have been developed by the Purchasing and Supply Agency to ensure that wholesome, high quality and value-for-money ingredients are used.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) Strategic Plan for 2005-10 includes a commitment to support other Government Departments to set targets to improve the nutritional quality of meals served in major institutions. Work is under way to develop nutrient and food based guidance for institutions that will support cross-Government action on diet and food procurement. The first set of guidance, including an example menu, for those providing food to older people in residential care who do not have specific diet-related medical needs, was published by the FSA in October 2006. Guidance for institutions providing food to adults who do not have specific diet-related medical needs, will be published before the end of October 2007.

The quality of hospital food is measured annually via Patient Environment Action Team (PEAT) assessments. These showed an increase from 17 per cent. 'good' in 2002 to 32 per cent. 'excellent' in 2006 (there was no 'excellent' category in 2002, when a three-point scale was used).

Older people in hospital may prefer to eat little and often, and this was provided for in the NHS Plan. For the last year in which statistics were collected, (2004) 89 per cent. of hospitals had introduced ward kitchen services to provide light snacks, 80 per cent. were providing snack boxes for patients who missed a meal and 84 per cent. provided extra snacks during the day.

It is known that older people in hospital are vulnerable to malnutrition. To identify and deal with patients at risk, we have introduced protected mealtimes and have renewed the emphasis on nutritional screening. These two areas of work are being actively pursued by the National Patient Safety Agency.

A national action plan to tackle the issue of older people and nutrition more generally was announced on 14 March 2007 by my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Health (Mr. Lewis). The action plan followed a nutrition summit on the same day, attended by leading charities, clinicians, nutrition experts and care home representatives. It will be published in November 2007 and will outline a range of measures that NHS and social care managers can take to address nutrition, hydration and nutritional care issues in all settings. FSA guidance to improve meals served in major institutions contributes to this national action plan.

Hospitals: Official Visits

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS hospitals *(a)* he and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department has visited since 27 June. [158460]

Dawn Primarolo: The Secretary of State for Health and other departmental Ministers all make regular visits to national health service and social care facilities, including hospitals, general practitioner practices and primary and community services.

Since 27 June 2007, Ministers have visited the following NHS hospitals:

Secretary of State (Alan Johnson)

Kingston Hospital, Surrey

King's College, London

The Princess Alexandra Hospital, Hamstell Road, Harlow, Essex

Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton, Somerset

Great Ormond Street Hospital, London

Royal Marsden, London

Essex Cardiothoracic Centre, Basildon, Essex
Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham
St. George's Hospital, London

Minister of State (Ben Bradshaw)

Royal Exeter and Devon
Tewkesbury
Tiverton District Hospital, Tiverton, Devon

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Ann Keen)

St. Peter's Hosp—Chertsey
Leeds General Infirmary
St. James' Hospital, Leeds
Hammersmith Hospital, London
Charing Cross Hospital, London
Royal Liverpool University Hospital

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Ivan Lewis)

Peasley Cross Hospital, St. Helens

Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State (Ara Darzi)

Gateshead Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (FT), Gateshead
University Hospital of South Manchester NHS FT, Manchester
York Hospital NHS FT, York
City Hospital, Birmingham
Derby Royal Infirmary, Derby
Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow, Essex
St. Margaret's Community Hospital, Epping, Essex
Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospitals NHS FT, Basingstoke
Conquest Hospital, St. Leonards-on-Sea, East Sussex
West View Hospital Plummer Lane, Tenterden, Kent
Tiverton District Hospital, Tiverton, Devon
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust, Exeter

Human Papilloma Virus: Vaccination

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish, in full, the recommendations of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation on the human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccination programme before its next meeting in February; what plans he has to introduce an HPV programme for girls aged 12 to 13; what plans he has to extend an HPV programme to young women older than 13; and if he will make a statement. [161453]

Dawn Primarolo: On 26 October, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State (Alan Johnson) announced the introduction of a human papilloma virus (HPV) immunisation programme to routinely vaccinate girls aged 12-13 years of age against cervical cancer, starting from September 2008.

The Secretary of State also confirmed that there would be a two-year catch up campaign starting in autumn 2009, for girls up to 18 years.

Incontinence Aids

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the names, qualifications and responsibilities are of those on the Expert Group set up to reclassify continence and stoma prescription products. [161370]

Mr. Bradshaw: Subject to their agreement, the Department will publish the names of the specialist nurses who advised the Department of the proposed classification of items.

Incontinence Aids: Prices

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason two options were provided under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the reclassification of continence products according to the proposed reimbursement price reduction model. [161368]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has only proposed one classification of stoma and incontinence items listed in Part IX of the Drug Tariff.

However, the Department is seeking views on two options as to how value for money for the national health service might be achieved via a reduction reimbursement prices.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely impact on services to patients if drug companies adopt option 1 in Part IX of the Drug Tariff of a 35 per cent. price reduction in continence products. [161369]

Mr. Bradshaw: Our recent consultation refers to a reduction capped at 35 per cent. not a 35 per cent. reduction in prices for all products.

The consultation also proposes remuneration for services; this is independent of reimbursement for items. Views are sought on the proposed remuneration for services.

Influenza

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the benefits and risks are which are being considered as part of the decision to change arrangements for the seasonal influenza programme, as referred to in his letter to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire, reference PO00000237366. [160262]

Dawn Primarolo: The Review provided options for fundamentally changing the current system for the purchase and supply of vaccine without incurring additional costs and maintaining the cooperation of providers and general practice.

The current flu vaccination programme has proved successful, and consideration needs to be given to the potential adverse impact that any changes may have on vaccination uptake levels, or confidence of stakeholders in the programme, as well as the potential benefits of a more robust or cost-effective delivery of the programme.

No decision can be taken to change these arrangements until a thorough assessment of the benefits and risks is completed and the results of the 2008-09 programme including the impact of improved information, planning and communication on uptake is known.

Influenza: Disease Control

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements he has put in place to ensure that

the UK's stockpile of antivirals can be distributed to the population within the window of therapeutic opportunity. [160264]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Flu Line Service is being set up to enable rapid access to antiviral medicines treatment to those that require it. Arrangements are being made to support this, including the identification of 'local collection' points where antivirals can be collected on behalf of the symptomatic patient (on being authorised treatment via the Flu Line Service). Communications are also being prepared to encourage patients to contact the Flu Line Service within the window of therapeutic opportunity.

Influenza: Screening

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to introduce screening for pandemic influenza infection at points of national border entry or exit in the event of an influenza pandemic; and if he will make a statement. [160265]

Dawn Primarolo: Based on available health evidence about their likely effectiveness, there are no plans to impose either entry or exit screening in the United Kingdom in the event of an influenza pandemic. But if such screening were recommended by the World Health Organization, or other countries impose requirements of this nature, we would need to consider our position on a case-by-case basis.

Influenza: Vaccination

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the proportion of the pandemic influenza antiviral stockpile which may be *(a)* accidentally prescribed to those who are not infected with pandemic influenza, *(b)* accidentally destroyed and *(c)* wasted. [160263]

Dawn Primarolo: The clinical algorithm which is being developed for the National Flu Line is designed to ensure that antiviral medicines are only distributed to those who are showing the symptoms of influenza. End to end distribution arrangements are being put in place to ensure that supplies are protected from accidental destruction, loss or wastage.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the take up by pensioners in Ribble Valley constituency of influenza vaccinations in each year since 1997. [161149]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the format requested.

Flu vaccine uptake data was collected for the first time in those aged 65 and over from 2000. The percentage of those aged 65 and over who received a flu vaccine in East Lancashire Primary Care Trust (PCT) and Hyndburn and Ribble Valley PCT, for which data is available, is shown in the following table:

	PCT	*Percentage of those aged 65 and over who received flu vaccine*
2000	East Lancashire health authority	63
2001	East Lancashire PCT health authority	65
2002-03	Hyndburn and Ribble Valley PCT	65
2003-04	Hyndburn and Ribble Valley PCT	66.4
2004-05	Hyndburn and Ribble Valley PCT	70
2005-06	Hyndburn and Ribble Valley PCT	72
2006-07	East Lancashire PCT	73.9

Maternity Services: Greater London

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of providing maternity services at *(a)* Queen Mary's Hospital, Sidcup, *(b)* Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich, *(c)* Darenth Valley Hospital, Dartford and *(d)* Princess Royal Hospital, Farnborough in 2006-07. [160465]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally. It is the responsibility of local national health service trusts to provide maternity services. The information is therefore available from the relevant local NHS trusts.

Maternity Services: Manpower

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps are being taken to ensure that primary care trusts implement recommended nursing levels in neo-natal units. [160623]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Government set out their policy for neo-natal services in the report of the Neonatal Intensive Care Services Expert Review Group, which was published in 2003. The report highlights the British Association of Perinatal Medicine standards, which recommend a qualified nursing staff to baby ratio of 1:1 for neonatal intensive care, 1:2 for high dependency care and 1:4 for special care.

It is the responsibility of local national health service organisations to ensure that services have sufficient staff to deliver high quality and safe treatment.

The Department has commissioned a 12-month study to improve information about local NHS staffing and service provision within paediatric and maternity services, including neo-natal services.

Medical Records: Databases

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many confirmed security breaches of databases controlled by his Department occurred in each of the last five years; whether the breach resulted from internal or external sources in each case; how many records were compromised on each occasion; and what estimate was made of the total number of records accessible to the individuals concerned. [159943]

Dawn Primarolo: There have been no confirmed cases of security breaches of any databases controlled by the Department in the last five years.

Medical Treatments: Pressure Sores

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the estimated cost of pressure sore related treatments and complications was to the NHS in each of the last five years, broken down by region; and if he will make a statement; [160859]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to ensure the timely identification and treatment of pressure sores among hospital and long-term care patients; and if he will make a statement; [160860]

(3) how many pressure ulcer incidents have been recorded in private and public care homes in each of the last five years, broken down by authority; and if he will make a statement. [160870]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the cost of pressure sore related treatments and complications is not collected.

"Essence of Care", published in 2003, sets benchmarks for pressure ulcers in health and social care settings, and helps health care professionals to devise appropriate care plans. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence has published detailed clinical guidelines on pressure ulcer management in primary and secondary care. It is the responsibility of local health bodies to ensure that this guidance is implemented.

The number of pressure ulcer incidents in private and public care homes, broken down by local authority, is not available.

Mental Health Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the cost of providing cognitive behavioural therapy was to the NHS in each year since 1997; [159806]

(2) how many courses of cognitive behavioural therapy were provided by the NHS in each year since 1997. [159807]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information on the cost of providing cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) to the national health service (NHS) and on the number of courses of CBT provided by the NHS since 1997 is not collected centrally.

On 10 October we announced our commitment to build a new psychological therapy service, including an increased provision of CBT. By 2010-11 we will have invested an additional £170 million in psychological therapies, so that by 2011 this service will help to treat 900,000 more people with depression and anxiety disorders.

National Carers Strategy: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what resources will be allocated to the National Carers Strategy. [161708]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No decisions have been made about resources to be allocated to the National Carers Strategy. We are currently in the process of consulting with stakeholders on the review of the strategy. The resource implications of the new strategy will need to be considered as the details develop over the coming months.

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence: Standards

Mr. Skinner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will institute a review of the effectiveness of the remit and scope of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence investigations; and if he will make a statement. [161444]

Dawn Primarolo: We have no plans to conduct such a review. The Health Select Committee is currently holding an inquiry into the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and we will respond to any recommendations in due course.

NICE itself is currently conducting a review of its "Guide to the methods of technology appraisal", which underpins the technology appraisal programme. We understand that NICE expects to commence a public consultation on its findings later in 2007.

NHS

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons his Department plans to put in place the new arrangements for a comprehensive regional presence referred to on page 18 of his Department's Capability Review and Development Plan, published on 12 September; which arrangements are in place to support the Departments regional presence; whether he expects to reconfigure strategic health authorities in support of the new arrangements; and if he will make a statement. [159946]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 912-13W.

NHS Modernisation Agency: Operating Costs

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the annual running costs were of the NHS Modernisation Agency were in each year since its inception; how many full-time employees the Agency has; what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Agency; and if he will make a statement. [161527]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The NHS Modernisation Agency closed in 2005 as part of the review of arm's length bodies.

In 2003-04, the annual running cost was £229 million and the headcount was 842 whole-time equivalent.

In 2004-05, the running cost was £218 million. The headcount reduced as the year progressed.

NHS Trusts: Loans

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the presentation entitled Financial Regime, given at the Financial Management and Reporting Steering Group meeting on 23 March, to which trusts 13 loans *(a)* are and *(b)* were planned for 2007-08; and what the value of the loan planned is or was for each trust. [160238]

Mr. Bradshaw: Cash support in the form of public dividend capital (PDC) was provided to 13 national health service trusts over the 2006-07 year end, pending the outcome of a review process in 2007-08. This process will set out the long term financing arrangements for these NHS trusts whilst maximising the level of cash support repaid to the Department.

The 13 NHS trusts, and details of the amount of PDC that each received, are shown in the following table.

Trust name	*Value of PDC received (£000)*
Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospital NHS Trust	46,000
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	87,000
Good Hope Hospital NHS Trust[1]	14,000
Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust	27,300
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	77,246
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	65,432
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	15,000
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	56,400
Royal Wolverhampton Hospital NHS Trust	21,000
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	13,000
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	29,277
West Middlesex University NHS Trust	17,000
Weston Area Health NHS Trust	16,250
Total	484,905

[1] Good Hope Hospital NHS Trust subsequently merged with Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the presentation entitled Financial Regime given at the Financial Management and Reporting Steering Group meeting on 23 March 2007, how the loans issued on 22 March 2007 are treated on the balance sheet of individual trusts. [160247]

Mr. Bradshaw: National health service trusts were asked to separately identify loans from the Department in their loans note which forms part of the creditors figure in the balance sheet.

NHS: Eastern Region

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many public health workers were employed in the NHS in the East of England in each year since 1997. [159085]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information is not available in the format requested.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the presentation entitled Financial Regime given at the Financial Management and Reporting Steering Group meeting on 23 March, how much was deducted from trusts in relation to the deficit incurred in 2005-06, broken down by trust; and which strategic health authorities were granted such funds, broken down by amount received. [159792]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows which national health service trusts had resource accounting and budgeting (RAB) reductions applied in 2006-07 and the values of these reductions. These were reversed in line with the written ministerial statement by my right hon. Friend the former Secretary of State (Ms Hewitt), on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 96WS.

RAB deductions applied to NHS trusts in 2006-07

NHS trust name	*RAB deductions applied to NHS trusts in 2006-07 (£000)*
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust	-6,357
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	-12,304
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	-1,500
Worcestershire MH Partnership NHS Trust	-1,592
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Partnership NHS Trust	-325
Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust	-8,101
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	-14,020
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	-876
Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	-5,857
Queen Elizabeth Hospital Kings Lynn NHS Trust	-11,010
Suffolk NHS Partnership NHS Trust	-797
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	-12,027
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	-14,123
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	-24,064
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	-23,420
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	-8,758
Whipps Cross University Hosp NHS Trust	-15,606
Ashford and St. Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	-2,560
East Kent Hospitals NHS Trust	-2,606
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	-4,864
Medway NHS Trust	-69
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	-1,293
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	-305
Avon and Wiltshire MHP NHS Trust	-2,789
Gloucestershire Partnership NHS Trust	-1,319

RAB deductions applied to NHS trusts in 2006-07

NHS trust name	*RAB deductions applied to NHS trusts in 2006-07 (£000)*
Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	-362
Royal United Hospital Bath NHS Trust	-138
Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust	-835

To allow these deductions to be reversed the centrally held NHS contingency was distributed to strategic health authorities (SHAs). The share for each SHA is set out in the following table.

Distribution of the centrally held NHS contingency

SHA	*Share of centrally held NHS contingency (£000)*
North East	25,260
North West	66,887
Yorkshire and the Humber	45,600
East Midlands	36,489
West Midlands	48,433
East of England	46,022
London	71,434
South East Coast	35,533
South Central	31,272
South West	43,071
England	450,000

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been allocated to public health spending in each year from 2007-08 until 2010-11. [159937]

Dawn Primarolo: The primary care trust revenue allocations for 2007-08 identified £342 million to support public health initiatives. Funding for 2008-09 and beyond has not yet been determined.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the presentation entitled Policy Costing Overview given at the Financial Management and Reporting Steering Group meeting on 23 March, (1) what arrangements for revenue challenge existed prior to his Department's restructuring exercise; [159948]

(2) what arrangements for policy costing existed prior to the drafting of the Policy Costing Handbook. [159972]

Mr. Bradshaw: Policy branches typically work with analytical support staff to cost the impact of their policy developments. The Policy Costing Handbook brought together good practice that already existed within the Department, codifying it and presenting it in as a step-by-step process. Before it was issued some policy documents contained guidance on costing; for example, "Policy Appraisal and Health", amended November 2004, contained a section on how to quantify resource costs and cost data sources.

Prior to the Department's restructuring exercise, the sign-off by the finance director for all policies with significant financial implications had not been formally required. However finance in the majority of cases was typically consulted on revenue implications of policies, but did not have a dedicated team to scrutinise the costs.

The majority of policy proposals are included in the Department's comprehensive spending review bids, typically every three years. The proposals are assessed and costs are examined in finance by a team of staff that compile the bid.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the presentation entitled Policy Costing Overview given at the Financial Management and Reporting Steering Group meeting on 23rd March, (1) what other needs were identified as part of his Department's restructuring exercise aside from the need for a Revenue Challenge Function; [159949]

(2) on what date the restructuring of his Department took effect. [159974]

Mr. Bradshaw: There were seven challenges identified as part of the Department's restructuring exercise given at the presentation to the Financial Management and Reporting Steering Group meeting on 23 March 2007. These are:

Transition to a commissioning-led structure; strengthen integrated policy development; enhance the challenge role of finance; higher profile for social care and strengthen key departmental management functions, including policy co-ordination and planning; create a single integrated board to lead the Department and further increase the level of collaboration between the board and the Secretary of State and Ministers.

On 20 January 2006, Nigel Crisp, the then NHS chief executive and permanent secretary for the Department, announced the transitional arrangements being brought in to manage change.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when the national weighted capitation formula was last changed; and whether he plans to make alterations to it; [160379]

(2) whether he plans to adjust the market forces factor; [160380]

(3) what progress he has made in the review of the market forces factor; [160391]

(4) when his Department plans to *(a)* produce a report on and *(b)* publish findings of its review of the impact of the market forces factor on the funding levels of local health trusts. [160396]

Mr. Bradshaw: The development of the weighted capitation formula is continually overseen by the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA). The formula was last updated prior to the 2006-07 and 2007-08 revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs).

ACRA is currently reviewing the formula in support of the revenue allocations to PCTs post 2007-08. This review covers the market forces factor and the need elements of the formula, and also the population base.

ACRA's work is ongoing, but once it is complete, ACRA will make recommendations to Ministers on proposed formula changes. Ministers will need to give due consideration to any proposed changes to the formula, as recommended by ACRA.

The date for announcing revenue allocations to PCT post 2007-08 has not yet been determined. Documentation supporting the announcement, which will include the impact of any formula changes, will be published as soon as practically possible after the announcement has been made.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1878W, on NHS: finance, for what reason the allocation of resources to primary care trusts was not revised. [160770]

Mr. Bradshaw: Allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) were set for three years from 2003-04 to 2005-06 in December 2002, and for a further two years in February 2005 covering 2006-07 and 2007-08. Our policy is that we do not revise PCT allocations once they are set, because giving PCTs certainty enables better local planning.

NHS: Procurement

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what improvements in procurement practices in the NHS his Department plans to make in order to achieve savings of £1 billion a year by 2011. [159939]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is currently finalising delivery plans for improved efficiency to meet the requirements of the comprehensive spending review 2007 (CSR07). A value for money delivery agreement is due to be published in December following agreement with the Treasury. The Commercial Directorate is working closely with the Office of Government Commerce (OGC), the national health service Purchasing and Supply Agency (NHS PASA) and the NHS procurement community to identify specific initiatives. All the work referred to above will help meet the £1 billion savings target in 2011.

Over the last three years significant improvements have been established in NHS procurement practices. These include the establishment of Collaborative Procurement Hubs, the introduction of eProcurement technologies and leading edge procurement practices within NHS PASA. The OGC Procurement Capability Review planned for March 2008 will assist in reviewing, with the Department, capacity, capability and current practices, thereby ensuring preparedness for delivery of efficiencies under CSR07.

NHS: Public Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's total expenditure on managing the NHS identity, as explained on the website www.nhsidentity.nhs.uk, was in 2006-07. [160221]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department spent £248,181 on managing the national health service identity in 2006-07.

I regret that the information given to the hon. Member in a written answer on 11 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 562W, was incorrect. The correct figure for 2002-03 is £168,540.

NHS: Working Hours

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 2082W, on the NHS: working hours, if he will place in the Library the information received by the Department on the national workforce projects and pilot schemes which are being conducted to judge the NHS's readiness for implementation of the European Working Time Directive. [159714]

Ann Keen: There are a number of pilot projects under way that are being supported by National Workforce Projects. These are the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health and Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Children's and Maternity Services in 2009; Milton Keynes General NHS Trust; 3 x 9 Hour Shift Pattern, Redesigning Traditional Junior Doctor Rotas; Paediatric Solutions; Co-operative Solutions; Taking Care 24:7; Team Working; Handover and Escalation; and IT Solutions. The information requested consists of a large number of documents and these have been made available to the hon. Member. They are also available on the National Workforce Project website at:

www.healthcareworkforce.nhs.uk/pilotprojects.html

Nurses: Manpower

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* full-time equivalent and *(b)* headcount (i) district nurses and (ii) midwives were employed by the NHS in each year since 1997; and what steps he is taking to increase the number employed by the NHS in each case. [157601]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of full-time equivalent (FTE) as well as headcount district nurses and midwives since 1997 is shown in the table.

Workforce planning is a matter for local determination as local workforce planners are best placed to asses the midwifery and district nurse needs of their local population. The department continues to ensure the frameworks are in place to enable effective local workforce planning.

England

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Midwives (headcount)	22,385	22,841	22,799	22,572	23,075	23,249	23,941	24,844	24,808	24,469
Midwives (FTE)	18,053	18,168	17,876	17,662	18,048	18,119	18,444	18,854	18,949	18,862

	England									
	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006[1]
District Nurses (headcount)	14,150	14,260	14,258	14,452	13,510	13,393	13,292	12,827	12,067	11,270
District Nurses (FTE)	11,336	11,432	11,384	11,320	10,734	10,639	10,496	10,000	9,706	9,180

[1] More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total workforce figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends.

Source:

Department of Health Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Nurses: Rheumatology

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many specialist nurses were employed in *(a)* rheumatology and *(b)* diabetes in each year since 2001. [158653]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

The annual national health service workforce census does not separately identify rheumatology and diabetes specialist nurses from the rest of the nursing workforce.

The Information Centre are working with NHS organisations and other stakeholders to improve data quality, allowing for more detailed information in specific areas of work, including diabetes and rheumatology.

Obesity

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how his Department measures obesity; and if he will make a statement. [161244]

Dawn Primarolo: Obesity in adults is defined using Body Mass Index (BMI). It involves comparing weight to height by dividing the weight measurement, expressed in kilograms, by the square of the height, expressed in meters. Obesity is defined as a BMI greater or equal to 30.

In children defining obesity is more difficult because they are growing, and so both their height and weight change at the same time. In children, standard United Kingdom reference charts for weight relative to height are used which are age and gender specific.

Note:

BMI is the internationally recognised standard for identifying overweight and obesity.

Paediatrics

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* paediatric beds and *(b)* paediatric wards there were in each primary care trust area in the East of England in each year since 1997. [159224]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. However, the following table shows the average daily number of available paediatric beds in wards open overnight for national health service trusts in the East of England between 1996-97 and 2006-07.

Table 1: average daily number of available paediatric beds in wards open overnight for NHS Trusts in the East of England between 1996-97 and 2006-07

Organisation	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	51	51	48	52	54	56	56	56	56	56	56
Bedford Hospital NHS Trust	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	49	54	42
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	88	88	101	95	108	94	81	81	80	87	87
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	56	72	64	64	64	59	56
East Hertfordshire NHS Trust	32	34	32	31	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	38	33	46	33	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Essex Rivers Healthcare NHS Trust	64	39	39	36	32	52	93	66	50	50	50
Hinchingbrooke Healthcare NHS Trust	33	33	33	33	33	33	3	2	2	2	2
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	46	62	60	60	52	53	49	53	53	53	58
James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	41	41	41	41	41	41	40	38	38	38	38

Table 1: average daily number of available paediatric beds in wards open overnight for NHS Trusts in the East of England between 1996-97 and 2006-07

Organisation	*1996-97*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	70	70	71	70	73	65	65	66	68	66	68
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	66	61	60	60	62	74	74	64	67	61	61
Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust	64	61	61	62	62	61	59	63	60	59	62
Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	62	57	57	54	55	54	56	57	55	45	43
Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	50	50	50	50	46	38	39	38	41	40	41
The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	12	7	8	7	42	40	41	37	33	32	32
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Trust	51	38	37	38	36	36	37	38	40	38	34
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	0	0	0	0	53	70	47
Mount Vernon and Watford Hospitals NHS Trust	68	64	64	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
St. Albans and Hemel Hempstead NHS Trust	43	39	37	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	36	36	38	37	38	38	38	36	37	32	32

Notes:
1. Ward Classifications. Paediatric beds comprise: Intensive Care (neonates); Intensive Care (paediatrics) and; Other General and Acute (neonates and children).
2. NHS Trust mergers:
In 2000-01, East Hertfordshire NHS Trust and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust merged to form East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust.
Present trust names used only—for all trust name changes, see following.
In 2000-01, Mount Vernon and Watford Hospitals NHS Trust and St. Albans and Hemel Hempstead NHS Trust merged to form West Hertfordshire NHS Trust.
3. Name changes:
Basildon and Thurrock General Hospitals NHS Trust (1997-98—2001-02), Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Trust (2002-03—2004-05), Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (2005-06—present)
Addenbrookes NHS Trust (1996-97—2004-05), Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (2005-06—present)
James Paget Healthcare NHS Trust (1996-97—2004-05), James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (2005-06—present)
Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Trust (1996-97—2004-05), Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (2005-06—present)
Mid Essex Hospitals NHS Trust (1996-97—2001-02), Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust (2002-03—present)
Norfolk and Norwich Health Care NHS Trust (1996-97—2000-01), Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust (2001-02—present)
Papworth Hospital NHS Trust (1996-97—2004-05), Papworth Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (2005-06—present)
Peterborough Hospitals NHS Trust (1996-97—2004-05), Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (2005-06—present)
Southend Health Care NHS Trust (1996-97—2001-02), Southend Hospital NHS Trust (2002-03—2004-05), Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (2005-06—present)
Source:
Department of Health form KH03

Palliative Care

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish the end of life care strategy. [161712]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: To support and complement the development of the Next Stage Review, we have deferred publication of the End of Life Care (EOLC) Strategy until the summer.

We have shared the emerging findings from the EOLC Strategy with strategic health authorities, which have been asked to develop local strategic visions for end of life care, to be completed in the New Year, to inform the Next Stage Review. We will then take account of this local work in the development of the national EOLC Strategy.

Palliative Care: Children

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish his Department's response to the independent review of children's palliative care services; and if he will make a statement. [158487]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We are developing a national strategy for children's palliative care and will endeavour to cover as many as possible of the report's recommendations in this work. We aim to have the strategy ready by the end of the year.

It is, however, essential that we align as much of this work as possible with the work arising from the conclusions contained in the parallel HM Treasury/Department for Children, Schools and Families review—"Aiming High for Disabled Children". The two reviews offer an important opportunity to advance the agenda for these very vulnerable children and that is why we are taking them forward together.

Patients: Allergies

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to reduce difficulties experienced by patients who are allergic to latex gloves. [161549]

Ann Keen: On 26 May 2005 the National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) issued to all national health service organisations in England and Wales, via their safety alert broadcast system, the guidance Protecting People with Allergy Associated with Latex, which recommended that a comprehensive working policy on the use and purchasing of latex products be developed.

The policy should include measures to:

substitute, control or eliminate latex where appropriate and possible;

ensure staff are aware of, and have access to, safe and effective latex-free alternatives;

identify and protect sensitised patients; and

raise awareness about latex sensitivity among patients and staff.

They further recommended that this policy should be backed up by efficient management arrangements, and the policies audited and reviewed to check compliance. A deadline of January 2006 was given for all these actions to be completed.

In addition, a website-based toolkit has been developed by the Health and Safety Executive, in partnership with the Department, the NPSA, the Latex Allergy Support Group, the National Association of Theatre Nurses, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency, the healthcare industry and other relevant bodies. This toolkit includes example policies and materials to help local NHS organisations raise awareness of latex allergy with both staff and patients.

Patients: Leeds

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his latest estimate is of the average cost per week of *(a)* keeping a person in hospital and *(b)* keeping a person in a nursing home in Leeds. [159850]

Ann Keen: Accurate information on the average cost per week for hospital inpatient treatment is not available. However, the average gross total cost per week in 2005-06 for supporting an adult (aged 18 and over) in nursing care in Leeds was £718.

Source:
Information Centre for health and social care.

Publications: Expenditure

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse was of the guide to healthy communities published in *The Times* on 16 October. [160269]

Dawn Primarolo: The Improvement and Development Agency for local government placed the supplement on healthy communities in *The Times* on 16 October. The cost to the Agency was £20,000.

Rose Gibb

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who recommended Rose Gibb, the former Chief Executive of Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust, for the post of Chief Executive at Pennine Acute Trust in February. [161456]

Ann Keen: The employment of staff, clinicians and managers within the national health service is a matter for local NHS Boards.

Small Change, Big Difference Campaign

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 11 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 700W, on the Small Change, Big Difference campaign, what the expenditure on the campaign has been since April 2006, broken down by major item of expenditure. [160180]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 19 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 63W.

In June 2007, we also published 'Partnerships for Better Health, Small Change, Big Difference: healthier choices for life' a series of case studies highlighting partnership working and the lessons derived from them in support of the Small Change, Big Difference initiative.

A total of £38,767 has been spent on the costs associated with the publication of the Partnerships for 'Better Health, Small Change, Big Difference: healthier choices for life' report.

This brings the total spend for Small Change Big Difference to £52,103 since April 2006.

Smoking: Publicity

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse was of preparing and distributing his Department's package of information on the smoking ban sent to private individuals and businesses after the ban came into effect. [161132]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not prepared or distributed any packages of information to individuals or businesses on smokefree legislation since the law commenced on 1 July 2007.

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's budget is for mass media anti-smoking campaigns in the 2007-08 financial year; and what the budget will be in each of the financial years to 2011-12. [161133]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department's campaign advertising budget for smoking campaigns for 2007-08 financial year is £11.39 million. This figure does not include campaign advertising expenditure to support the introduction of smokefree legislation or the increase of the age of sale of tobacco products this year.

Figures for spend for each of the financial years to 2011-12 cannot be provided at this stage as budgets have not been finalised.

Speaking for Yourself Programme: Finance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has allocated funds for the Speaking For Yourself programme for *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09 and *(c)* 2009-10; and what plans he has for future funding for this programme. [158835]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: We have not allocated any funds to this programme and we do not have any plans for future funding. The Prime Minister announced in September 2007, that the hon. Member for Buckingham (John Bercow), will be leading a review of services for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs. The Bercow Review will be supported by officials from the Department for Children, Schools and Families and also from the Department of Health.

Strokes: Health Services

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to improve stroke services in the NHS. [161457]

Ann Keen: Between 1996-97 and 2007-08, spending on the NHS has increased from £33 billion to just over £90 billion, representing an average annual increase in real terms of 6 per cent. The improvements seen in stroke services have undoubtedly benefited from these increases over the last 10 years.

The National Service Framework (NSF) for long-term conditions was published in 2004 to improve the quality of life and independence for people with long-term neurological conditions. It set out general guidelines for a range of conditions, including stroke, to establish faster diagnosis, more rapid treatment and a comprehensive package of care based around individual patient needs.

Prior to this the NSF for Older People, published in 2001, included a chapter on stroke services. It set out a range of measures to reduce the incidence of stroke and improve stroke treatment, which have led to a widespread development of services: the Royal College of Physicians (RCP) shows that all trusts caring for people who have had a stroke now have a specialist stroke service and 97 per cent. of hospitals in England now have a stroke unit; these were uncommon a decade ago. The audit also shows that in 2006, around two thirds of stroke patients were treated on a stroke unit. This is a significant improvement since 2004 when the figure was less than half. Length of stay in hospital for stroke patients is falling from 34 days in 2001 to 28 days in 2004. The results of the RCP audit also show that the proportion of trusts with a stroke unit meeting five or six of the audit's criteria has increased from 33 per cent. to 41 per cent. between 2004 and 2006.

Stroke mortality is falling. For people under 65, the three year average death rate from stroke has fallen by 23 per cent. over the period from 1993-95 to 2002-04. For people aged 65-75 the death rate has dropped by 30 per cent. over the same period. We have made greater progress in reducing premature deaths from coronary heart disease than from stroke. This is because we have begun by focusing on coronary heart disease, the biggest killer in the country. However, because of the significant progress we have made in this area we are now able to redouble our efforts in addressing the challenge of stroke. This is why the Department launched a stroke strategy document for consultation on 9 July 2007. It followed an 18-month programme of work, setting out the views of six expert working groups who represented a wide range of key stakeholders. The strategy aims to accelerate the emergency response to stroke, by setting out a framework for care of stroke patients, and raising awareness about stroke symptoms and risk factors. It is due for publication by the end of 2007.

In addition to developing the strategy, in 2006 the Department published 'Mending hearts and brains', a report by Professor Roger Boyle, the National Director for Heart and Stroke. The report makes the clinical case for reconfiguring stroke services. In particular, it emphasises the need to treat stroke as an emergency, including the delivery of thrombolysis at specialist centres and a possible 'hub and spoke' model for stroke services.

Last year the Department also launched ASSET (Action on stroke services: an evaluation toolkit) to help health care providers compare their performance with others. It considers four aspects of acute treatment setting out how these mean fewer people experiencing death or disability, and more efficient hospital services with people able to return home faster. An additional version, ASSET 2, for commissioners has also been introduced which uses analytical modelling to advise hospitals and primary care trusts of what the impact of making specific changes to their services would be. We have also published a guide for commissioners, setting out key questions they need to consider and a series of best practice case studies.

As well as helping to improve existing stroke services, the Department is investing £20 million over five years (2005-10) into the development of the UK Stroke Research Network.

Tobacco: Children

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what plans his Department has to restrict children's access to tobacco products through cigarette vending machines; [161306]

(2) what research his Department has undertaken on the relationship between levels of uptake of smoking amongst under 18 year olds and the availability and accessibility of tobacco vending machines. [161390]

Dawn Primarolo: It is illegal for tobacco products to be sold to young people under 18 from vending machines, and the code produced by the National Association of Cigarette Machine Operators states that machines should be sited and monitored in supervised areas so that staff can be sure of preventing their use by those under 18.

Local trading standards departments will continue to monitor vending machine sales along with all retail points on compliance with the minimum age of sale.

The Department has not undertaken specific research between the levels of smoking among under 18-year-olds and the availability and accessibility of tobacco vending machines, but relies on the annual

"Smoking Drinking And Drug Use among Young People" survey and on reports from trading standards departments.

A copy of "Smoking Drinking And Drug Use among Young People 2006" has been placed in the Library.

Training: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the last audit of the use of multi-professional education and training funding was published; and when he expects the next one. [161607]

Ann Keen: The use of the multi-professional education and training money is monitored through strategic health authority quarterly performance monitoring reports to the Department, which are not published. The last reports were received in May 2007 for the 2006-07 financial year. Returns for the period April to September 2007 are in the process of being collected.

Wirral Primary Care Trust: Personal Care Services, Chiropody

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the availability of nail cutting services in Wirral Primary Care Trust; and if he will make a statement; [160809]

(2) how many patients received chiropody treatment in Wirral in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2001 and *(c)* 1998. [160810]

Mr. Ivan Lewis *[holding answer 25 October 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 27 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1191W.

The NHS North West Strategic Health Authority reports that chiropody provision in Eastham has been relocated to the Treetops Surgery in Bromborough, and the capacity in Parkfield Medical Centre has been doubled in the new premises. From October 2007, the eligibility criteria for treatment in the former Bebington and West Wirral PCT area have been extended to include more vulnerable and elderly patients which has resulted in additional investment. This includes the recruitment of an additional podiatry post which has been funded and created to facilitate this and the Wirral Primary Care Trust is currently actively recruiting to this post. No chiropody clinics in the Wirral Primary Care Trust have closed within the last five years.

Accurate information on the number of patients receiving chiropody treatment in the years requested is not available.

Young People: Mental Health Services

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidelines his Department has issued in relation to provision of child and adolescent mental health services, with particular reference to *(a)* 24 hour emergency access to services and *(b)* the emergency provision of a place of safety for young persons under the age of 16. [161572]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department's vision for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) was set out in the National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity, published in 2004.

The Department has a Public Service Agreement (PSA) Standard to ensure that CAMHS are available to all children and young people who need them. Achievement of the standard is measured by the attainment of three proxy targets, one of which is the commissioning by primary care trusts (PCTs) of twenty-four hour, emergency CAMHS assessment. The latest information, which relates to June 2007, shows that approximately 99 per cent. of PCTs are commissioning this element of service, and it is expected that coverage will be universal by the end of 2007.

In June 2007, the Department wrote to Chief Executives of Strategic Health Authorities (SHAs) to give advice on the use of adult psychiatric wards for children under 16 years of age. The letter advised that, in the exceptional case where a child of 16 or under is placed on an adult psychiatric ward, SHAs should use the "Serious Untoward Incident" protocol to notify the Department, setting out how the child will be moved to appropriate accommodation within 48 hours and how the ward and staffing have been made appropriate for the child's needs.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 30 October 2007

SCOTLAND

Commonwealth Games: Glasgow

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps his Department is taking to support Glasgow's bid to host the 2014 Commonwealth Games. [161466]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office has been working closely with the Scottish Executive, DCMS and the Intellectual Property Office to facilitate and support Glasgow's bid for the 2014 Commonwealth Games.

I and my right hon. Friends, the Secretary of State and the Prime Minister, have all backed Glasgow's bid, and hope that all the hard work of the Bid Committee is rewarded by Glasgow being named as the winning city.

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what departmental budget items have been reclassified, under Consolidated Budgeting Guidance, following Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 decisions; and what the *(a)* former and *(b)* new (i) classification and (ii) sum budgeted is in each case. [160407]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office had no reclassification changes following the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007.

Departments: Assets

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what departmental assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; and what the expected revenue from each such sale is. [160401]

David Cairns: None.

Departments: Correspondence

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many letters he and his predecessors have sent in each of the last five years. [148614]

David Cairns: Scotland Office Ministers receive a range of letters each year including from Members of Parliament, Peers, Ministers, a range of external bodies and members of the public. Some are answered by Ministers and some by officials. The figures for the last five years are shown in the table.

	Total letters received by Scotland Office Ministers	*Letters receiving ministerial reply*	*Letters receiving official reply*
2002-03	2,168	807	1,361
2003-04	1,461	334	1,127
2004-05	1,325	271	1,054
2005-06	1,129	228	901
2006-07	1,252	292	960
Total	7,335	1,932	5,403

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many letters were sent by officials in his Department to Scottish Executive departments in each month since January 2005. [154400]

David Cairns: Daily contact between Scotland Office and Scottish Executive officials is usually by telephone, e-mail or in person. The Office does not maintain a central record of letters sent to the Scottish Executive, the costs of which would be disproportionate.

Departments: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will place in the Library a breakdown of his Department's efficiency savings in relation to its Spending Review 2004 (SR04) targets, including *(a)* the efficiency projects in the Department, *(b)* the date on which they were initiated and *(c)* how much each was predicted to contribute to the SR04 target. [160543]

David Cairns: Following the 2004 spending review, provision for the Scotland Office and Office of the Advocate General was flat in nominal terms over the SR04 period. The Offices are committed to achieving efficiency and effectiveness in all areas of their activities and reduced their complement by over 21 per cent. between 2003-04 and 2004-05 with further reductions thereafter. Details are contained in the Offices' Annual Reports.

Departments: Internet

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many websites his Department operates; how many it operated at 1 January 2005; and what the estimated annual cost has been of running his Department's websites in the last five years. [157917]

David Cairns: The Scotland office only operates one website:

www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk.

At 1 January 2005 it also operated the website for the 'Arbuthnott' Commission on Boundary Differences and voting Systems:

www.arbuthnottcommission.gov.uk.

Both websites were established in 2004-05. The total annual costs of designing, building and hosting the websites are set out in the following table.

	£
2004-05	24,978.49
2005-06	4,791.26
2006-07	1,163.26

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many hits the *(a)* most popular and *(b)* least popular website run by his Department has received since 1 January 2007. [157918]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office has only one website:

www.scotlandoffice.gov.uk.

This site received 61,015 visits between January 1 and August 31 2007, by 30,825 unique visitors.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what the name is of each special adviser in his Department. [153202]

David Cairns: The annual list of special adviser names will be published shortly.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether any of his Department's special advisers have declared a conflict of interest. [160778]

David Cairns: Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the "Model Contract for Special Advisers". Copies of the "Model Contract" are available in the Libraries of the House.

Departments: Official Engagements

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his official engagements were between 9 September and 7 October. [157031]

Des Browne: On Sunday 9 September and Monday 10 September I had no Scotland Office engagements.

On Tuesday 11 September I was in London where I met the Electoral Commission and had various other meetings including with ministerial colleagues and officials from the Scotland Office and MOD.

I was in Scotland from Wednesday 12 September to Sunday 16 September. On Wednesday 12 September I delivered a speech at the International Conflict Resolution Seminar at the University of Glasgow. On Thursday 13 September I met the Royal Mail in Edinburgh. On Friday 14 September and Saturday 15 September I was in my constituency.

From Monday 17 September to Wednesday 19 September I was in London where I had various meetings including with ministerial colleagues and officials from the Scotland Office and MOD. On Tuesday 18 September I met the Chairman of OFCOM.

From Thursday 20 September to Saturday 22 September I was in Scotland. On Thursday 20 September I was in Glasgow where I attended the opening of the new BBC building at Pacific Quay. That afternoon I met the chair of the Scottish Interfaith Council. On Friday 21 September and Saturday 22 September I was in my constituency.

From Sunday 23 September to Wednesday 26 September I was at the Labour Party Conference in Bournemouth.

On Thursday 27 September I was in London where I had various meetings including with officials from the Scotland Office and MOD.

From Friday 28 September to Monday 1 October I undertook no Scotland Office engagements.

From Tuesday 2 October to Wednesday 3 October I was in London where I had various meetings with ministerial colleagues and officials from the Scotland Office and MOD.

From Thursday 4 October to Sunday 7 October I was in Scotland. On Thursday 4 October I was in Edinburgh where I had various meetings with Scotland Office officials and had a lunch meeting with the RBS Director of Group Economics and Corporate Affairs at their HQ in Edinburgh. From Friday 5 October to Sunday 7 October I was in my constituency.

Departments: Press

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland to which periodicals his Department subscribes. [153195]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office currently has no subscriptions to periodicals.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much was spent by his Department on newspapers and magazines in the last 12 months. [153196]

David Cairns: £9,753.

Departments: Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many and what percentage of questions tabled to his Department for answer on a named day received a substantive reply on the day named in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [161335]

David Cairns: The vast majority of questions tabled to the Scotland Office are 'ordinary' written and, of the small amount of 'named day' questions tabled, approximately 85 per cent. received a substantive reply on the day named.

Domestic Visits

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many journeys *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* Civil Servants in his Department made between London and Scotland on official business in each month since January; and how many of these journeys were made by (i) aeroplane, (ii) train and (iii) car. [151404]

David Cairns: The information requested is set out in the following table; there were no journeys by car. In relation to ministerial journeys, the information relates to travel paid by the Scotland Office. This does not include weekly travel between London and Ministers' homes in Scotland, paid by the House of Commons.

	Number of Journeys[1]			
	Aeroplane		Train	
	Ministers	Civil servants	Ministers	Civil servants
January 2007	0.5	23.0	0.5	7.0
February 2007	0.5	21.0	1.0	4.0
March 2007	1.0	32.0	—	8.0
April 2007	1.0	23.5	—	6.5
May 2007	0.5	22.0	0.5	8.0
June 2007	4.0	30.5	—	12.5
July 2007	1.5	23.5	—	11.5
August 2007	1.0	7.0	—	4.0
September 2007	2.0	17.5	—	6.5

[1] A return journey is classed as one journey; if, for example, the outward leg of a journey is undertaken by air and the return by train, this is shown as 0.5 of a journey under each column.

Legislative Drafting

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many responses the Scotland Office has received to the consultation on the Government's legislative programme. [160134]

David Cairns: The Scotland Office received 314 hits on our website pages dedicated to the Government's draft legislative programme: the first to be published in advance of the Queen's Speech. We received three substantive comments on the programme. Other Departments have also received responses on the programme from across the United Kingdom. The Leader of the House of Commons has already committed to publishing a summary of all consultation responses received by the Government and she will do so at the start of the next session.

Ministerial Duties

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his official engagements were for the period of 22 July to 8 September. [155402]

Des Browne *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* From Monday 23 July to Thursday 26 July, I was in London where I had various meetings including with ministerial colleagues and officials from the Scotland Office and MOD. I attended Cabinet on Tuesday 24 July. On Friday 27 July and Saturday 28 July I was in my constituency in Scotland.

From Monday 30 July to Tuesday 31 July, I was in London where I had various meetings with colleagues and officials from the Scotland Office and MOD.

From Wednesday 1 August to Sunday 5 August, I was in Scotland. On Wednesday 1 August and Thursday 2 August I had various engagements in Edinburgh including a visit to Standard Life; Meeting with the Bio-Industry Association; Meeting with Archangel Investment; Visit to Aegon; Visit to Selex Sensors. On Friday 3 August following surgeries in my constituency I visited Rolls Royce, East Kilbride (jointly as Secretary of State for Defence). On Sunday 5 August I attended the National Youth Orchestra of Scotland performance in Glasgow.

From Monday 6 August to Friday 10 August I undertook no Scotland Office engagements.

On Saturday 11 August following constituency engagements during the day, I attended an evening performance of On Danfe at the Edinburgh Playhouse.

On Monday 13 August I hosted a Borders and Immigration Agency reception at the Scotland Office, Edinburgh. On Tuesday 14 August I visited WL Gore Co Ltd, Livingston (jointly as Secretary of State for Defence). On Wednesday 15 August I had various MOD meetings in London.

From Thursday 16 August to Monday 20 August I was in Scotland. On Thursday 16 August I had various engagements in Edinburgh including a visit to Seebyte (jointly as Secretary of State for Defence); Meeting with SBAC Scottish Council; Meeting with the First Minister. On Friday 17 August I visited Mahle Engine Systems, East Kilbride; I hosted a Scotland Venezuela Reception at the Scotland Office, Edinburgh and attended the Simon Bolivar Youth Orchestra of Venezuela concert at the Usher Hall, Edinburgh. On Sunday 19 August I spoke at the Celebration of Indian Independence Dinner in Glasgow. On Monday 20 August I met the Chief Executive of Scottish and Southern Energy, Perth and visited Highland Spring. That afternoon I travelled to Glasgow to visit the Diageo bottling plant and I delivered a speech that evening at the SCDI Influencers Dinner.

On Tuesday 21 August I was in London where I had various meetings with Scotland Office and MOD officials.

From Wednesday 22 August to Saturday 25 August I was in Scotland. On Wednesday 22 August I visited a waterfront regeneration project in Edinburgh, and travelled to Glasgow for an afternoon meeting with the STUC at their offices. On Thursday 23 August I travelled to Aberdeen where I visited REPower and a Scotch whisky distillery. On Friday 24 August and Saturday 25 August I was in my constituency.

From Sunday 26 August to Saturday 8 September I had no Scotland Office engagements.

Official Engagements

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what his official engagements were in the week of 16 to 21 July. [154323]

Des Browne: From Monday 16 July to Thursday 19 July I was in London where I had various meetings, including with ministerial colleagues and officials from the Scotland Office and MOD. On Tuesday 17 July I attended Cabinet and appeared before the Scottish Affairs Select Committee for an oral evidence session on the Scotland Office Annual Report. On Friday 20 July and Saturday 21 July I was in my constituency in Scotland. On the afternoon of Saturday 21 July I attended the UK Youth Parliament annual sitting at the University of Strathclyde (jointly as Secretary of State for Defence).

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Budget Support

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 809, on budget

support, what the membership of the Independent Advisory Committee on Development Impact is; what its terms of reference are; and when he expects its first report to be published. [161311]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Using the recommended procedures of the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments, an independent selection panel has been taking forward selection of a suitable chair and members for the Independent Advisory Committee and this is well advanced. I will make a full announcement shortly.

The committee will meet for the first time on 6 December. One of the first tasks will be discussing its final terms of reference and how it will work, including issues such as timing for the annual report. Meanwhile, draft terms of reference are attached and being made available today on DFID's website.

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what departmental budget items have been reclassified, under Consolidated Budgeting Guidance, following Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 decisions; and what the *(a)* former and *(b)* new (i) classification and (ii) sum budgeted is in each case. [160411]

Mr. Thomas: In CSR 2007, costs of DFID's programme delivery staff overseas are classed as costs of front line service delivery and under the Consolidated Budgeting Guidance (paragraph 4.3) are not included in administration budgets for 2008-09 to 2010-11. In the baseline year (2007-08) costs for the activities re-classified are £64 million and will be not more than £72 million by 2010-11.

Separately, under paragraph 4.7 of the guidance, HM Treasury has agreed early departures costs (if incurred) of up to £9 million over the CSR period will be within programme rather than administration budgets.

Departments: Civil Proceedings

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many civil law suits have been brought against his Department based either wholly or partially on grounds provided by the Human Rights Act 1998; how many were settled out of court, before a court judgment was delivered; and how much such settlements cost the public purse since 1998. [160696]

Mr. Malik: The Department for International Development has no record of any civil law suits which were brought against the Department on the grounds of the Human Rights Act 1998.

Departments: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will place in the Library a breakdown of his Department's efficiency savings in relation to its Spending Review 2004 (SR04) targets, including *(a)* the efficiency projects in the Department, *(b)* the date on which they were initiated and *(c)* how much each was predicted to contribute to the SR04 target. [160546]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: DFID will deliver £420 million in efficiencies per year by the end of 2007-08; equivalent to at least 3.5 per cent. of the total budget. All efficiency projects began in April 2005. We will achieve this by undertaking reforms to:

1. Increase the percentage of our country programmes spent on programme based approaches (the target savings for this action to produce by March 2008 is £111 million);
2. Increase value for money from procurement (£10 million);
3. Improve our bilateral project performance (£173 million);
4. Increase our contribution to low-income countries through EC aid (£31 million);
5. Increase our support to the International Development Association (£75 million);
6. Reduce our administration costs (£20 million). This includes targets to reduce UK-based full time staff to 1,610 by March 2008 (from 1,907 in March 2004) and a target to relocate 85 posts from the London office to East Kilbride.

Full details of our Efficiency Programme can be found in DFID's Efficiency Technical Note which sets out all the projects being undertaken, how much each project was forecast to generate and how DFID will deliver and measure its efficiency savings. Recent detail on the Department's progress is provided in DFID's departmental report from May 2007. The report is in the Library and a copy of the Technical Note will be placed in the Library.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether any of his Department's special advisers have declared a conflict of interest. [160780]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the "Model Contract for Special Advisers". Copies of the "Model Contract" are available in the Libraries of the House.

International Atomic Energy Agency

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) budget for its responsibilities in the areas of (a) verification, (b) safety and (c) security and development; and what his policy is on the future requirements of the IAEA budget. [149713]

Malcolm Wicks: I have been asked to reply.

The policy of the Government is to pursue zero real growth (ZRG) in the budgets of international organizations, including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). As the fourth largest donor to the Agency the UK places great importance on the IAEA being able to carry out its work effectively, particularly in the areas of verification, safety and security, but also recognize the resource pressures that it is under. The last two agreements to the IAEA's Regular Budget have been above ZRG, and we are confident that the Agency will not find itself under-funded. In addition to our assessed contributions to the Regular Budget the UK makes regular voluntary contributions to support the Agency's verification and security activities. At the same time we wish to see the IAEA use its budgets efficiently, devoting adequate

resources to high priorities, screening out lower value work and delivering value for money and we monitor performance closely.

Mozambique: Asylum

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of numbers of refugees from Zimbabwe in Mozambique. [161677]

Mr. Thomas: There is no authoritative source recording the extent of cross border movement. According to the UNHCR there are no officially registered Zimbabwean refugees or asylum seekers in Mozambique. However the International Office for Migration (IOM) estimates that between 3,000 and 10,000 Zimbabweans have left Zimbabwe to enter Mozambique. They are largely entering Mozambique under the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Facilitated Movement Protocol. Under this arrangement there have always been large cross border movements between Mozambique and Zimbabwe, mainly due to cross border trade and a large cross border common ethnic community. The IOM, Save the Children and UNICEF are undertaking an assessment of official and unofficial cross border flows in late November and their results will be made public later this year.

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what financial support the UK is providing towards *(a)* the resettlement of and *(b)* reconstruction programmes for the population recently affected by the conflict in the eastern provinces of Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [161880]

Mr. Malik: This financial year DFID has provided £1 million for humanitarian programming to Sri Lanka, with £800,000 given to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and £200,000 through the UN inter agency Common Humanitarian Action Plan (CHAP). Much of this funding is being spent on resettlement and reconstruction programmes in the east.

DFID monitors the humanitarian situation in Sri Lanka through monthly humanitarian updates. The humanitarian situation in the east is gradually improving. Internally Displaced People (IDPs) have slowly been returning and the total number of IDPs have now dropped to 30,000.

Further DFID missions to Sri Lanka will review the CHAP contribution for 2007-08, assess the humanitarian situation and make recommendations for further support. DFID's work in Sri Lanka is focused on conflict prevention jointly with the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Sub-Saharan Africa: HIV Infection

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether he has any plans to support or encourage HIV/AIDS voluntary testing schemes in sub-Saharan Africa. [161419]

Mr. Thomas: DFID will continue to support HIV and AIDS voluntary counselling and testing in sub-Saharan Africa as part of nationally owned and comprehensive approaches to HIV and AIDS prevention, care and treatment. The UK believes that access to HIV testing services, including counselling, need to be scaled up, but that they must always be on a voluntary basis.

In Malawi, DFID has committed £45 million over five years to improve access to HIV testing and counselling, anti-retroviral therapy and other related services. In Nigeria, a survey of DFID's behaviour change programme in March this year showed that people's willingness to be tested for HIV had increased from 40 per cent. at the baseline to 54 per cent.

The UK also funds and supports the provision of voluntary counselling and testing services though contributions to multilateral organisations. DFID has pledged £359 million to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria over the 2002-08 period.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effect of HIV/AIDS on the economies of sub-Saharan Africa. [161420]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has recently undertaken a desk based review of the economic impact of HIV and AIDS epidemics in sub-Saharan Africa. Evidence of impact is difficult to assess due to the lack of robust data and complexities of long term inter-generational effects of HIV and AIDS. However, the data available indicate that higher HIV prevalence leads to lower economic growth, lower household income levels, and can increase poverty. International Monetary Fund published research on the economic impact of HIV and AIDS suggests that where HIV prevalence is greater than 20 per cent. among the working age population, growth declines per annum by up to 1.5 per cent. and that per capita incomes will fall by 67 per cent. over a 20 year timeframe compared to the scenario without HIV and AIDS.

United States Agency for International Development (2005) cite evidence that AIDS deaths in Zimbabwe, where prevalence levels are 20 per cent., led to a sharp fall in household agricultural output: a 61 per cent. decline in maize production, 49 per cent. decline in vegetable output and 47 per cent. decline in cotton output.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what representations he has received on the provision by the United Kingdom of medical training and expertise to doctors dealing with HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. [161423]

Mr. Thomas: DFID has received representations from civil society organisations (e.g. Save the Children Fund), international agencies (e.g. the World Health Organisation), African Governments and regional institutions (e.g. Africa Union), on the provision of medical training of doctors and other health workers to deal with HIV and AIDS and other critical health issues in sub-Saharan Africa.

The UK Government have led the way on this issue. The UK committed £1 million to the Global Health Workforce Alliance which will hold the first global forum on human resources for health in Uganda in March next year to specifically look to agree a roadmap to address health worker training in sub-Saharan Africa. DFID programmes also help strengthen African health systems and train and retain health workers. In Malawi DFID is providing £100 million over six years to support health systems strengthening, including efforts to increase human resources to manage the extra demands to support its response to HIV and AIDS. DFID is working closely with the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS (PEPFAR) to align efforts to strengthen African countries health systems and scale up the numbers of trained health workers. The UK Government also funds and supports medical training and expertise through support to multilateral organisations, for example, contributing £359 million to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria over the 2002-08 period.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) how much funding the UK gave to HIV/AIDS projects in sub-Saharan Africa in each of the last five years; [161424]

(2) what percentage of UK aid given to sub-Saharan Africa in the latest period for which figures are available was devoted to projects dealing with HIV/AIDS. [161422]

Mr. Thomas: Data on DFID's total bilateral expenditure in sub-Saharan Africa and the proportion of this expenditure spent on HIV and AIDS activities over the last five years are laid out in the table as follows.

DFID Bilateral Expenditure in sub-Saharan Africa, 2002-03 to 2006-07

£ million

	Total bilateral expenditure	*Expenditure on HIV and AIDS activities*	*Proportion of total bilateral expenditure on HIV and AIDS (%)*
2002-03	703	89	12.7
2003-04	672	106	15.7
2004-05	825	124	15.1
2005-06	1,097	164	15.0
2006-07	1,107	168	15.2

DFID also provides funding to multilateral organisations and civil society organisations. This will also contribute to the funding of HIV and AIDS activities in sub-Saharan Africa.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he is taking to assist the provision to HIV/AIDS victims in sub-Saharan Africa of access to the best available treatment and drugs at affordable prices. [161425]

Mr. Thomas: DFID is working with African governments, civil society, donors and international agencies to ensure that people living with HIV and AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa have access to affordable treatment, as well as prevention and care services. DFID supports treatment through programmes aimed at strengthening health systems and comprehensive nationally-owned HIV/AIDS plans in several countries. Our bilateral programmes include Rwanda, where DFID provides support worth £4.25 million through non-governmental organisations towards anti-retroviral therapy, and community-based care to 2,500 HIV positive female genocide survivors and their families. And in Zimbabwe, DFID is providing £20 million over 4 years to increase by at least 50 per cent. the number of people able to access anti-retroviral therapy.

The UK also funds and supports the provision of anti-retroviral services via multilateral organisations. DFID has pledged £359 million to the Global Fund to fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria over the 2002-08 period. DFID was one of the founding members of UNITAID, the new drugs purchase facility established in September 2006, with a €20 million annual commitment increasing to €60 million per year by 2010 subject to performance.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether any of his Department's special advisers has declared a conflict of interest. [160774]

Mr. Plaskitt: Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract for Special Advisers. Copies of the Model Contract are available in the Libraries of the House.

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on how many occasions he has visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [158927]

Mrs. McGuire: Since taking up post, on the 28 June 2007, the Secretary of State has visited the south east, south west, east of England, Yorkshire and the Humber and London. He has also visited Wales in a ministerial capacity, and Scotland. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

New Deal Schemes

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of participants in each of the new deal programmes returned to out of work benefits, including those who continued to claim an out of work benefit while participating in the new deal, in each year since 1997. [159623]

Mr. Plaskitt *[pursuant to the reply, 29 October 2007, Official Report, c. 762-63W]:* The revised available information is in the following table.

Percentage of new deal participants who returned to out of work benefits in each year from 1998

	New deal for young people	New deal 25 plus	New deal for lone parents	New deal 50 plus	New deal for disabled people	New deal for partners
1998	79	81	76	n/a	n/a	n/a
1999	83	90	79	n/a	n/a	n/a
2000	83	90	77	n/a	n/a	n/a
2001	83	87	78	n/a	85	n/a
2002	81	82	71	n/a	72	n/a
2003	77	81	71	n/a	69	n/a
2004	72	75	69	61	59	35
2005	65	72	63	61	54	34
2006	50	66	57	61	55	28

Notes:
1. Data refer to the year in which individuals left new deal, which may not be the same year in which they subsequently claimed a benefit.
2. Data include people who were claiming a benefit before participating on new deal who continued to claim during participation and after leaving the programme.
3. Benefits included are: incapacity benefit, income support and jobseeker's allowance.
4. Information for new deal for disabled people is only available from 2001 and from 2004 for new deal 50 plus and new deal for partners.
5. Latest complete year data are for 2006.
6. Programme start dates are: new deal for young people: January 1998; new deal 25 plus: July 1998; new deal for lone parents: October 1998; new deal for partners: April 1999; new deal 50 plus: April 2000; new deal for disabled people: July 2001.

Source:
Information Directorate, DWP.

Winter Fuel Payments: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims for winter fuel payments were made in Peterborough constituency in each year since their introduction. [161874]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information relating to winter fuel payments for the winters of 1997-98 and 1998-99 is not available. The information from winter 1999-2000 is in the following table.

Peterborough constituency

	Payments made
1999-2000	15,520
2000-01	17,070
2001-02	17,110
2002-03	17,170
2003-04	17,200
2004-05	16,930
2005-06	16,940
2006-07	17,100

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Winter Fuel Payments: Walsall

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received the winter fuel allowance in the Walsall North constituency in *(a)* 2004-05 and *(b)* 2005-06. [161743]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Information relating to winter fuel payments for winters 2004-05 and 2005-06 is in the following table.

Walsall North constituency

	Payments made
2004-05	16,260
2005-06	16,300

Notes:
1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

Source:
Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Accountancy

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission when he expects copies of the Electoral Commission's Resource Accounts for 2006-07 to be available in the Vote Office. [161792]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that its Resource Accounts for 2006-07 were laid before Parliament by the Comptroller and Auditor General on 17 July 2007, and made available in the Library. They will be published by TSO (The Stationery Office), and copies placed in the Vote Office, on 1 November.

Recruitment

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what the costs were to public funds of the recent recruitment competition for Electoral Commissioners. [161791]

Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the direct cost to public funds of the recent recruitment process for four Electoral Commissioners was approximately £120,000.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Medical Equipment

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what resuscitation equipment is provided in each building on the parliamentary estate; and if he will make a statement. [161533]

Nick Harvey: Defibrillators are kept in the Palace of Westminster, Portcullis House, Norman Shaw North, 1 Canon Row and at 7 Millbank. A more extensive range of equipment including oxygen is kept by the practice nurse in the lower waiting hall.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Alexander Litvinenko

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Solicitor-General what representations she has received on the decision of the Crown Prosecution Service *(a)* to charge Andrei Lugovoi and *(b)* not to charge any others for the murder of Alexander Litvenenko; and if she will make a statement. [157565]

The Solicitor-General: Neither I, nor my predecessor have received any representations on the decision by the Crown Prosecution Service since its announcement.

Criminal Proceedings: Foreign Relations

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Solicitor-General what account is taken when determining whether to charge an individual with a criminal offence of the impact on international relations as a consequence of prosecution; and if she will make a statement. [157568]

The Solicitor-General: All charging decisions are taken in accordance with the Code for Crown Prosecutors. If there is enough evidence to provide a 'realistic prospect of a conviction' against the defendant, an assessment is then made whether a prosecution would be in the public interest. The likelihood of harm to international relations is one of the public interest factors that may affect the decision to prosecute, to the extent compatible with our international law obligations. The more serious the offence, the more likely it is that a prosecution will be needed in the public interest.

Forensic Science: Standards

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Solicitor-General what mechanisms exist to ensure consistency of decision-making within the Crown Prosecution Service on the assessment of forensic evidence; and if she will make a statement. [157569]

The Solicitor-General: All prosecution decisions are taken in accordance with the Code for Crown Prosecutors. When making the decision whether to prosecute, prosecutors must apply the two stage test contained within the Code for Crown Prosecutors. The first stage is consideration of the available evidence. For a case to proceed, there must be sufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction against the defendant on each charge he or she faces. This includes considering whether the evidence can be used in court and whether it is reliable. Prosecutors will review all the evidence, including any forensic evidence, in accordance with these principles. Only if there is sufficient evidence, will prosecutors then consider the second stage, which is whether a prosecution is required in the public interest.

PRIME MINISTER

Departments: Assets

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister what office assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; and what the expected revenue from each such sale is. [160346]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office today.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister in which financial years since 2001 his Department's outturn for its capital budget at the end of the year was less than planned at the beginning of the year; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* reason for the underspend was in each case. [160325]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office today.

Lord Chancellor: Pensions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister what the pension arrangements are for the previous Lord Chancellor; and if he will make a statement. [160236]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my predecessor to the hon. Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 19 June 2003, *Official Report*, columns 393-4W.

Ministers: Pay

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister what estimate he has made of the cost of paying additional *(a)* salaries and *(b)* pension contributions for the seven additional Ministers he has employed since 27 June 2007. [159927]

The Prime Minister: The Ministerial and other Salaries Act 1975 limits the number of ministerial salaries to 109—the number of ministerial salaries paid both immediately before and after the changes to the Government made in June. Ministerial salaries and pensions are payable in accordance with the Ministerial and other Salaries Act 1975 and the Ministerial and Other Pensions Act 1991 respectively.

OLYMPICS

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much was spent by her Office on official hospitality since its establishment. [158900]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics on how many occasions she has visited each region in an official capacity since appointment. [158922]

Tessa Jowell: Since my appointment as Minister for the Olympics in June 2007, I have visited the West Midlands for the 2007 UK School Games as part of the 2012 Roadshow and the South East for the BAA Wheelpower Workshop at the Stoke Mandeville Stadium. I will be making further a 2,012 visits around the UK in the coming months.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the Ministerial Code.

Members: Correspondence

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister for the Olympics when she plans to answer the letter of 30 August from the right hon. Member for Leicester East. [160683]

Tessa Jowell: I replied to my right hon. Friend the Member for Leicester, East on 11 October 2007.

Olympic Games: Greater London

Anne Main: To ask the Minister for the Olympics when she next expects to make an announcement on Olympic funding; and if she will make a statement. [158614]

Tessa Jowell: I expect to provide a further update on the Budget early in the new year.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what effect she expects the 2012 Olympic Games to have on the North West region. [158663]

Tessa Jowell: The 2012 Olympic games and Paralympic games will have a great effect across the UK, including the North West region, through social, economic and sporting benefits. The North West launched their regional plan to maximise the impact of the games in their area on 11 May 2007. Further details can be found on the North West Regional Development Agency website. The main legacy ambitions for the region are: to increase participation through sport and active recreation; maximise links with Liverpool Capital of Culture as a key element of the launch of the Cultural Olympiad; build capacity in the volunteering infrastructure and promote volunteering opportunities. Another key priority for the region is targeting information and support for North West businesses. To date over 600 businesses have signed up for business e-alerts for 2012 opportunities.

The North West also sits on the Nations and Regions Group (NRG), which has been established to maximise participation in the games and to ensure benefits from 2012 are spread across the UK. These opportunities include hosting pre-games training camps; participation in the 2012 Torch Relay; being one of the 70,000 volunteers needed for 2012 and winning business contracts.

Further detailed information regarding the region's plan can also be provided by the relevant NRG Coordinator, Rob Young (North West Regional Development Agency, PO Box 37, Renaissance House, Centre Park, Warrington, WA1 1XB).

In addition, Old Trafford, Manchester (home of Manchester United FC) will host rounds of the football competition during the games.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics when she will next announce progress on the London 2012 Budget. [158726]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* I expect to provide a further update on the Budget early in the new year.

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether any of the £2.7 billion contingency fund announced as part of the Olympic budget in March 2007 is drawn from the National Lottery. [160082]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 22 October 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics on which dates updates to financial estimates have been made by the Olympics cost review group. [160285]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1604W, on the Olympic Games, what confidentiality arrangements were agreed at the meeting of 26 January 2006. [160286]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what decision timescales were agreed at the meeting of the Olympics cost review group on 21 February 2006. [160287]

Tessa Jowell: The minute of the cost review group meeting of 21 February 2006, does not indicate that any decision timescales were agreed at this meeting, but that the basic timeline/ critical path of planning/ compulsory purchase order expenditure, should be presented at a future date.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what meetings she has had with the Olympic Delivery Authority to discuss diversity in relation to procurement contracts awarded as part of the development of the 2012 Olympic Games. [160679]

Tessa Jowell: I have regular meetings with the Olympic Delivery Authority to discuss all aspects of policy and delivery and the Government places great

importance on diversity in procurement. The ODA procurement policy published last year incorporates the diversity and equality standards to be considered in procurements by the ODA and their main contractors.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister for the Olympics which groups have been consulted as part of the process for awarding contracts to companies for the development of the Olympic Games. [160680]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) published its Procurement Policy in March 2007, following consultation which generated responses from over 60 groups and organisations. These include; the Federation of Small Businesses, Social Enterprise London, the Equal Opportunities Commission, the Commission for Racial Equality, the Transport and General Workers Union, various trade associations, and local government.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what factors were considered as part of the process of awarding contracts for the development of the Olympic Games. [160681]

Tessa Jowell: The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has a statutory obligation to comply with EU public procurement directives and the UK public contracts regulations 2006. The ODA's Procurement Policy published in March 2007 also documents the ODA's core procurement values that underpin its approach to procuring the goods and services required for its delivery programme. This is available on the London 2012 website at:

http://www.london2012.com/documents/business/oda-procurement-policy-in-full.pdf

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what meetings she has had with the Olympic Delivery Authority to discuss the process by which tier two and below contracts are awarded to companies to build the 2012 Olympic Games stadium; and if she will make a statement. [160682]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1594W, on the Olympic Games: Greater London, which Government department or body the person who gave a stock-take of work on security at both meetings referred to was representing. [160769]

Tessa Jowell: The stock take on security, given at the Cost Review Group meetings of 26 January 2006 and 25 April 2006, were given by the Home Office, who lead on games-related security.

Robert Neill: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what *(a)* discussions she has had on and *(b)* assessment she has made of the merits of transferring responsibility for any of the (i) land or property and (ii) liabilities resulting from the Olympics legacy to the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority. [160848]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 25 October 2007]*: The Lee Valley Regional Park Authority (LVRPA) already owns a significant amount of land within the Olympic Park and elsewhere on which Olympic venues and facilities will be situated.

My officials have been discussing with the LVRPA and other partners the arrangements needed to manage and operate the land, property and other assets and liabilities arising from London 2012. These discussions, which are ongoing, include consideration of the LVRPA's long-term role in the management and delivery of the legacy of the Olympic Park.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what estimate she has made of the financial and social effect on Greater London of staging the 2012 Olympics, with particular reference to the London borough of Sutton. [160858]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Skinner: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what locations in the East Midlands are being considered to serve as training sites for athletes for the 2012 Olympics. [161441]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics pursuant to the answer of 14 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 117W, on Olympic Games: Greater London, what proportion of the Legacy Trust will be allocated for funding *(a)* cultural activities and *(b)* sporting activity. [161644]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Ms Abbott: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what steps she has taken to promote relevant training and development opportunities in those boroughs where hosting the London Olympics in 2012 is likely to create jobs; and if she will make a statement. [160520]

Tessa Jowell: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what accounts directions were issued by his Department in financial years *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07. [156615]

Edward Miliband: Under the Government Resource and Accounts Act 2000, HM Treasury issue accounts directions to Departments, pension schemes and agencies and under the Government Trading Fund Act 1973 to trading funds.

For the years 2005-06 and 2006-07, Cabinet Office has issued accounts directions for the form and content of resource and other accounts to the following sponsored bodies:

2005-06: None

2006-07: Capacity Builders (UK) Ltd.

Departments: Assets

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what departmental assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; and what the expected revenue from each such sale is. [160348]

Gillian Merron: The Cabinet Office is currently engaged in identifying assets which could be potentially sold.

Departments: Civil Proceedings

David Davis: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many civil law suits have been brought against his Department based either wholly or partially on grounds provided by the Human Rights Act 1998; how many were settled out of court, before a court judgment was delivered; and how much such settlements cost the public purse since 1998; [160693]

(2) how many civil law suits in which proceedings are not ongoing have been brought against his Department based either wholly or partially on the grounds of the Human Rights Act 1998; how many were settled out of court, before a court judgment was delivered; and how much these settlements cost. [160706]

Edward Miliband: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departments: Cost-effectiveness

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when the most recent conference on delivering value for money organised by the Cabinet Office was held. [159791]

Gillian Merron: Cabinet Office has not organised any conferences on delivering value for money.

Departments: Manpower

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* full-time, *(b)* part-time and *(c)* voluntary (i) special advisers, (ii) consultants and (iii) secondees worked for his Department in each month since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [161766]

Edward Miliband: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) whether Mr. Bob Shrum has been allocated space to work within *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* Downing Street offices; [160607]

(2) whether any funding from the public purse has been provided to *(a)* Mr. Bob Shrum and *(b)* a company with which Mr. Bob Shrum is associated for (i) speech writing, (ii) political consultancy and (iii) advisory purposes by (A) the Cabinet Office and (B) Downing Street. [160608]

Edward Miliband: Mr. Bob Shrum has not been allocated an office or provided with a salary or any other payments from the Cabinet Office or 10 Downing street.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether any of his Department's special advisers have declared a conflict of interest. [160787]

Edward Miliband: Special advisers are appointed under the terms and conditions set out in the "Model Contract for Special Advisers". Copies of the "Model Contract" are available in the Library of the House for the reference of Members.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster in which financial years since 2001 his Department's outturn for its capital budget at the end of the year was less than planned at the beginning of the year; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* reason for the underspend was in each case. [160330]

Gillian Merron: The information is contained in the Cabinet Office annual reports and resource accounts for each financial year. Copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House for the reference of Members.

Food

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what progress the Cabinet Office's Strategy Unit is making in its project on food and food policy; which *(a)* individuals and *(b)* organisations are contributing to the project; what work has been undertaken on the project; what areas of food policy the project (i) has covered and (ii) will cover; which (A) Government departments and (B) other bodies are being asked to contribute to the review; what the content of these contributions is in each case; when he plans to publish a report on the project; and if he will make a statement. [161718]

Edward Miliband: The Strategy Unit project on food and food policy in the UK is examining trends in the production and consumption of food, the key drivers of those trends and the implications for the wider economy, society and the environment. It will look at the opportunities and challenges facing the food system, including issues such as diet's contribution to public health, food safety, changing consumer tastes and preferences, and environmental sustainability.

The project team is drawn from the Strategy Unit, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and the Food Standards Agency, working closely with the Department of Health, and is calling on expertise and inputs from across Government. The project is in an initial analytical phase; later phases will

draw out wider policy implications. The project team will be consulting with interested stakeholders from civic society, industry and academia later in the year.

The project is expected to conclude in the spring of 2008; the format of final outputs and publication plans have yet to be decided.

Michael Ellam

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on what date the decision was taken to appoint Michael Ellam as the new Downing street Head of Communications; and what appointment process was followed. [146431]

Edward Miliband: Michael Ellam was appointed as the Downing street director of communications and Prime Minister's official spokesman on 27 June, following standard processes for an internal move within the civil service.

Official Residences: Dorneywood

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance on the use of Dorneywood by Ministers and civil servants for conferences, away days and other functions. [158687]

Gillian Merron: Guidance on the use of official residences is set out in the "Ministerial Code". Dorneywood is held in Trust for use as an official residence, as has been the case under successive administrations. My right hon. Friend, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has the use of Dorneywood as an official residence. He is keen to ensure that other Ministers are able to use Dorneywood for official engagements and is currently in discussions with the Trustees of Dorneywood about such use.

Whips

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many rooms in Number 12 Downing Street are allocated to *(a)* Government Whips, *(b)* communications and *(c)* special advisers. [159886]

Edward Miliband: Offices in No. 12 Downing street are used by the Government Whip's office and communications staff.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council of England: Grants

Jeff Ennis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much grant aid the Arts Council for England has provided to *(a)* opera, *(b)* ballet and *(c)* brass bands over the last five years. [161480]

Margaret Hodge: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Betting

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which organisations responded to his Department's May 2003 position papers on the reform of betting legislation. [161860]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Our records show that the Racecourse Association, the National Joint Pitch Council, the Horserace Betting Levy Board, Ladbrokes, William Hill, the Sporting Exchange and the Association of British Bookmakers responded to my Department's May 2003 position papers on the reform of betting legislation.

British Waterways Board: Finance

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department plans to make a financial contribution to British Waterways; whether he has had discussions with British Waterways on funding; and if he will make a statement. [160716]

Margaret Hodge: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in time available before Prorogation.

Commonwealth Games

Mr. Marshall: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which UK Government Ministers will attend the announcement of the host city of the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Sri Lanka on 9 November. [161467]

James Purnell: There are no plans at this stage for a UK Government Minister to attend the announcement of the host city of the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Sri Lanka on 9 November.

The Prime Minister and UK Government have actively supported Glasgow's bid by providing a number of guarantees and agreements in principle, should the bid be successful. It will be supporting the bid in the days ahead.

Cultural Heritage: Databases

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's policy is on the creation of digital records of the UK's cultural assets. [160599]

Margaret Hodge: Many of our cultural institutions are creating digital records of their collections. We consider this to be important in terms of preserving those collections and making them available online to the widest possible audiences. To support this, we recently announced £25 million of new funding to secure the future of the national and regional film archives and make them more accessible.

We will shortly announce an archive review which will provide a basis for a digital strategy for culture in response to the European Commission's European Digital Library proposals.

Departments: Civil Proceedings

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many civil law suits have been brought against his Department based either wholly or partially on grounds provided by the Human Rights Act 1998; how many were settled out of court, before a court judgment was delivered; and how much such settlements cost the public purse since 1998. [160703]

Margaret Hodge: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departments: Cost-effectiveness

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what efficiency savings his Department was required to make as part of its Spending Review 2004 SR04 targets; what efficiency projects have been undertaken in the Department in pursuit of those targets; on what date each was initiated; and how much each was predicted to contribute to the SR04 target. [160553]

Margaret Hodge: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many regulations his Department has *(a)* brought forward and *(b)* revoked over the last 12 months. [158733]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 24 October 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departments: Policy

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what policy changes his Department has implemented since 27 June 2007. [159295]

James Purnell: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departments: Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many citizens' juries were arranged for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies in each year since 1997; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the cost was of each. [160010]

Margaret Hodge: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departments: Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what percentage of Questions tabled to his Department for answer on a named day received a substantive reply on the day named in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [161342]

Margaret Hodge: According to the DCMS PQ database, in the 12 month period from 1 October 2006 the Department received 418[1] named day questions of which 245 (59 per cent.) received a substantive reply on the day named.

[1] This figure includes those named day questions tabled to and answered by the Minister for the Olympics.

Digital Broadcasting: Eastern Region

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the take-up of digital television in *(a)* Suffolk and *(b)* the East of England was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [161840]

James Purnell: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in time available before Prorogation.

Digital Broadcasting: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government *(a)* has taken and *(b)* intends to take to assist senior citizens in the West Midlands to prepare for the switchover from analogue to digital TV. [159874]

James Purnell *[holding answer 25 October 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme: East Midlands

Mr. Skinner: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the percentage of households in the East Midlands that will qualify for assistance in switching over to digital television. [161448]

James Purnell: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in time available before Prorogation.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme: Eastern Region

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many and what percentage of households he estimates will qualify for assistance in switching over to digital television in *(a)* Suffolk and *(b)* the East of England. [161845]

James Purnell: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps the Government *(a)* have taken and *(b)* plan to take to assist elderly people in London to prepare for the switchover from analogue to digital TV; and if he will make a statement. [161762]

James Purnell: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

English Heritage: Greater London

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what projections were made of the number of staff English Heritage who would move to Bunhill Row, London. [159539]

Margaret Hodge: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many English Heritage staff relocated from London to other parts of the country in each year since 2000. [159542]

Margaret Hodge: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Football: Community Development

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which football clubs receive Government funding to operate community schemes; what assessment he has made of these schemes; and if he will make a statement. [161873]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in time available before Prorogation.

Listed Buildings

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many grade *(a)* I, *(b)* II* and *(c)* II listed buildings there are. [157222]

Margaret Hodge: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

National Lottery

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how much has been spent on the administration of the People's £50 million Lottery contest; [161459]

(2) how much the Big Lottery Fund has granted to the *(a)* Black Country Consortium Ltd, *(b)* Eden: the Edge, *(c)* Sherwood: The Living Legend and *(d)* the Sustrans' Connect2 projects; and for what purposes; [161461]

(3) how much was allocated to each organisation bidding for the People's £50 million Lottery contest by the Big Lottery Fund in order to help prepare for participating in the contest. [161463]

James Purnell *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

National Lottery: Grants

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much lottery funding was awarded to projects in *(a)* Wirral South, *(b)* Wirral, *(c)* Merseyside, *(d)* the North West and *(e)* England per head of population in each of the last five years. [154798]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The figures for grants awarded during the last five completed financial years for the areas requested are set out in these tables. The Department's Lottery Grants Database is searchable at www.lottery.culture.gov.uk and uses information supplied by the Lottery distributors. The population figures used are the mid-2005 estimates of the Office for National Statistics, except in the case of Wirral, South where the population figures used are the mid-2004 estimates of the Office for National Statistics.

Wirral, South parliamentary constituency population 73,771

Financial year	*Amount awarded (£)*	*Number of grants*	*Per capita (£)*
2002-03	1,835,483	28	24.88
2003-04	1,448,577	18	19.64
2004-05	680,970	33	9.23
2005-06	206,195	32	2.80
2006-07	76,865	11	1.04

Wirral metropolitan borough council population 313,100

Financial year	*Amount awarded (£)*	*Number of grants*	*Per capita rounded to nearest pence (£)*
2002-03	6,186,945	121	19.76
2003-04	3,183,480	84	10.17
2004-05	5,330,409	163	17.02
2005-06	3,064,078	164	9.79
2006-07	1,131,628	77	3.61

Merseyside county population 3,367,100

Financial year	*Amount awarded (£)*	*Number of grants*	*Per capita rounded to nearest pence (£)*
2002-03	42,512,521	652	12.63
2003-04	30,918,619	662	9.18
2004-05	39,815,829	801	11.82
2005-06	23,779,181	862	7.06
2006-07	28,129,579	499	8.35

The North West region population 6,846,200

Financial year	*Amount awarded (£)*	*Number of grants*	*Per capita rounded to nearest pence (£)*
2002-03	177,014,570	3,028	25.86
2003-04	156,404,148	2,935	22.85

The North West region population 6,846,200

Financial year	Amount awarded (£)	Number of grants	Per capita rounded to nearest pence (£)
2004-05	142,274,382	3,665	20.78
2005-06	175,784,749	3,783	25.68
2006-07	90,866,455	2,429	13.27

England population 50,431,700

Financial year	Amount awarded (£)	Number of grants	Per capita rounded to nearest pence (£)
2002-03	1,410,310,965	20,625	27.96
2003-04	1,256,960,794	20,684	24.92
2004-05	1,042,049,022	25,007	20.66
2005-06	1,012,563,065	27,526	20.08
2006-07	710,235,535	17,736	14.08

Olympic Games: Greater London

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1604W, on the Olympic Games, (1) for what reason no agendas were drawn up for the meeting after 9 March; [160282]

(2) for what reason the meeting of 9 March 2006 was cancelled. [159885]

Tessa Jowell: I have been asked to reply as Minister for the Olympics.

Pursuant to my answer of 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1604W, I can confirm that the meeting of the Cost Review Group on 9 March 2006 took place. It was the meeting scheduled for 19 April 2006 that was cancelled, for diary reasons.

Copies of agendas for the Cost Review Group meetings of 7 February 2006, 9 March 2006 and 25 April 2006, have now come to light, and I am arranging for these to be placed in the House Library.

Public Libraries: Derbyshire

Mr. Skinner: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding has been allocated to public libraries in Derbyshire in the last five years. [161443]

Margaret Hodge: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Royal Parks: Finance

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department's expenditure was in real terms on the Royal Parks in each year since 1997. [158298]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 22 October 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Rugby: World Cup

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he attended the International Rugby Board rugby World Cup Final in an official capacity; and if he will make a statement. [161274]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Both my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I attended the Rugby Board Rugby World Cup final in an official capacity as guests of the International Rugby Board.

I congratulate the England team on a tremendous effort in reaching the final and playing with such determination and pride. I am sure their performance will inspire many young people to get involved in rugby.

Sports: Handguns

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will make a statement on the provision and location of facilities to enable British competitors in pistol shooting to practise legally within the UK prior to the 2012 games. [159569]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Agreement has been reached in principle on the use of Ministry of Defence ranges by a small squad of elite pistol shooters. The Home Office is currently considering how best to take this forward.

It will be for Scottish Ministers to decide what arrangements should apply in Scotland.

Televisions: Licensing

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many pensioners in the Walsall, North constituency were eligible for a free television licence in each year since its inception. [161744]

James Purnell: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Tourism

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made towards improving the productivity of *(a)* the tourism industry, *(b)* the creative industries and *(c)* the leisure industries. [160142]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 25 October 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Tourism: Australia

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what activity was funded by the public purse in Australia to encourage visitors to the UK in summer 2007; and how much was spent. [161400]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Tourism: Foot and Mouth Disease

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect of the 2007 foot and mouth disease outbreak on tourism in the South East; whether he has allocated additional funds to promote tourism in this area since August 2007; and if he will make a statement. [161399]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Treasure Trove

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many treasure finds were reported in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2004 and *(d)* 2003; and if he will make a statement. [156842]

Margaret Hodge: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

UK Film Council: East Midlands

Mr. Skinner: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent by the UK Film Council in the East Midlands in the last six years. [161452]

Margaret Hodge: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in time available before Prorogation.

VisitBritain: Finance

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much he allocated to *(a)* VisitBritain and *(b)* VisitScotland for (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09, (iii) 2009-10 and (iv) following the Comprehensive Spending Review for the whole SR07 period. [161122]

James Purnell: VisitBritain's grant in aid for the present year (2007-08), and for the following three years up to 2010-11 which were the subject of the recent comprehensive spending review, is as follows:

	£ million
2007-08	49.6
2008-09	47.6
2009-10	45.1
2010-11	40.6

DCMS does not fund VisitScotland, which is fully supported by the Scottish Executive.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, what recent discussions he has had with VisitBritain on changes to its budget following the Comprehensive Spending Review. [161825]

Margaret Hodge: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Where We Live Programme

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on the Where We Live programme in each of the last three years. [159456]

Margaret Hodge *[holding answer 19 October 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Floods

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to assist farmers with protection from *(a)* flooding and *(b)* waterlogging. [160729]

Mr. Woolas: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what his estimate is of the percentage of the 2007 single farm payment which will be paid in *(a)* December 2007, *(b)* January 2008, *(c)* February 2008, *(d)* March 2008, *(e)* April 2008, *(f)* May 2008, *(g)* June 2008 and *(h)* after June 2008; [159904]

(2) what his estimate is of the number of the 2007 single farm payment claims which will receive their payments in *(a)* December 2007, *(b)* January 2008, *(c)* February 2008, *(d)* March 2008, *(e)* April 2008, *(f)* May 2008, *(g)* June 2008 and *(h)* after June 2008. [159905]

Jonathan Shaw: The Rural Payments Agency has a formal target to pay 75 per cent. by value of valid 2007 single payment scheme claims by 31 March 2008 and 90 per cent. by 31 May 2008. The production of reliable estimated monthly breakdowns is not possible because of the number of factors, which may affect the flow of payments.

Air Pollution: Standards

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his Department received a letter of a formal notice from the European Union Commission for failing to meet its legal obligations in relation to *(a)* sulphur dioxide and *(b)* nitrogen dioxide pollution of the air; if he will place in the Library a copy of such correspondence; and if he will make a statement. [160399]

Jonathan Shaw: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Angling: Seas and Oceans

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department has identified the species of most value to the recreational sea angling sector; and what steps he plans to take to protect and develop those recreational sea fisheries. [161755]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA's report "Research into the Economic Contribution of Sea Angling", published in July 2004, provided information on the important sites for sea angling, its contribution to the economy and the value of the experience to anglers. A survey conducted in support of the report identified that cod, bass and mackerel are the top target species for anglers.

I will shortly be consulting on a draft recreational sea angling strategy, developed collaboratively with key stakeholders in inshore fisheries. The draft strategy considers management measures for species of value to anglers.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of commercial catching practices on the recreational sea angling sector. [161781]

Jonathan Shaw: I recently announced new work that will take account of recreational sea anglers' interest in fisheries and consider the impact of different fishing practices. Details are set out in the autumn 2007 edition of Fishing Focus, available in the Library of the House.

Angling: White Fish

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timetable he has set for the implementation of measures to develop the potential of the UK inshore recreational bass fishery. [161720]

Jonathan Shaw: I recently announced measures that will provide benefits for stocks of bass and recreational sea anglers. Details are set out in the autumn 2007 edition of Fishing Focus, available in the Library of the House. The next step will be to ensure that all stakeholders are engaged in agreeing how and when to take this work forward collaboratively.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the optimum minimum landing size for bass *(a)* to ensure a robust stock structure and *(b)* to stimulate the development of the recreational sea fishery sector. [161756]

Jonathan Shaw: Scientific advice from the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea suggests that sea bass are fished sustainably under current management measures which include a minimum landing size (MLS) of 36cm.

The Regulatory Impact Assessment produced as part of proposals to increase the MLS for bass in England set out the impact of the measures on bass stocks, and the associated costs and benefits for recreational sea anglers and commercial fishermen. This was published on 10 August 2006. Having considered all the evidence available, I recently announced that I will not increase the MLS for bass. Instead, I set out a package of other measures that will provide benefits for stocks of bass and recreational sea anglers.

Animal Experiments: Finance

David Mundell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* central Government, *(b)* research councils, *(c)* UK levy boards and *(d)* industry through LINK schemes spent on animal science research and development in each year from 1996-97 to 2006-07; what estimate he has made of the equivalent amounts in (i) 2007-08, (ii) 2008-09 and (iii) 2009-10; what the distribution is of the estimated spend from 2007 to 2010 by type of research and development; and what information his Department holds on comparable expenditure on research and development for animal science by other EU and OECD nations. [160437]

Jonathan Shaw: Spend on animal science research between 1996 to 2007 for central Government (Defra), research councils (Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council), UK Levy boards (Meat and Livestock Commission, Milk Development Council) and industry through LINK (Sustainable Livestock Production programme) is tabulated as follows.

Financial year	*Defra*	*BBSRC*[1]	*MLC*	*MDC*	*Industry through LINK*[2]
1996-97	37.2	23.9	1.7	—	0.3
1997-98	40.4	24.2	1.6	—	0.7
1998-99	44.2	24.4	2.1	—	1.1
1999-2000	49.1	25.5	2.2	3.4	1.8
2000-01	51.0	27.4	2.0	2.2	2.0
2001-02	52.6	28.7	1.7	1.6	1.7
2002-03	55.2	32.9	1.5	1.5	1.3
2003-04	53.9	35.2	1.0	0.9	1.2
2004-05	55.5	39.4	0.9	1.2	1.3
2005-06	52.9	51.9	1.0	1.1	1.4
2006-07[3]	48.4	62.9	1.5	0.7	1.5
2007-08[3]	41.8	66.0	1.5	0.8	0.5

[1] BBSRC's Animal Sciences Committee supports basic and strategic work on animal function at the level of tissues and systems. This covers the basic and comparative physiology and behaviour of all animals, both invertebrates and vertebrates (including humans), but excludes clinical research and studies aimed at understanding the mechanisms of specific human diseases. Figures presented are estimated, not actual.
[2] Includes levy body funding.
[3] Provisional figures.
Note:
Figures include spend on animal health and welfare research.

The Scottish Government and the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland also support animal science research and development that contributes to the UK science base and research outputs in this area.

Defra and BBSRC are taking forward work to assess current and future skills and capacity needs, which will inform future spending plans.

Defra does not hold information on comparable expenditure on research and development for animal science by other EU and OECD nations.

Beekeeping

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent

estimate his Department has made of the economic benefit to agriculture and horticulture of honey bees. [161626]

Jonathan Shaw: A 2001 Economic Evaluation of DEFRA's bee health programme estimated the value of honey bees to commercial pollination at approximately £120 million, although a recent reassessment taking into account changes in crop areas and values suggests that the value may have increased to some £165 million. No valuation of the role of honey bees in relation to the pollination of wild plants is available.

Bees: Diseases

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much funding his Department provided to support research on bee diseases in each of the last five years; what proportion was to the National Bee Unit; and whether other government departments fund bee research; [161625]

(2) how much funding his Department provided to support the National Bee Unit in each of the last five years; and how much was spent on *(a)* supporting inspectors and *(b)* funding research in each year. [161627]

Jonathan Shaw: Expenditure on the National Bee Unit (NBU), which includes the Bee Health Inspection and Advisory Service, by DEFRA and the Welsh Assembly Government is as follows:

	Financial year expenditure (£)
2003-04	1,518,000
2004-05	1,518,000
2005-06	1,518,000
2006-07	1,518,000
2007-08	1,518,000

These figures do not include any expenditure on specific research projects, although some of the NBU's activity is in support of research initiatives. DEFRA's annual expenditure on bee health research has averaged around £210,000 since 2001.

There is an ongoing review of expenditure on all DEFRA programmes, including bee health. Future funding will need to be considered alongside the full range of priorities facing the Department but we will not take decisions that could compromise biosecurity and the sustainability of bee health in England.

Biofuels: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the volume of carbon dioxide produced during the production cycle and transport of each type of bio-fuel crop. [161682]

Mr. Woolas: Lifecycle analysis carried out on the greenhouse gas emissions for a wide range of biofuels show that sustainably produced biofuels can result in an overall net reduction in carbon emissions. Full details of these evaluations, including volumes of carbon dioxide produced during the production and transport cycles, are available on the European Union website.

The forthcoming Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) will require companies to measure and report on how much carbon their fuel has saved over the entire life-cycle from grain to tank. From 2010, when experience with carbon measurement and reporting has been established, the Government have announced their intention that the RTFO will reward fuels according to their carbon savings.

Biofuels: Finance

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what subsidies have been available for each type of bio-fuel crop over the last five years. [161681]

Mr. Woolas: Financial support has been made available for bio-fuel crops in the form of annual area based payments under the EU Aid for Energy Crops Scheme (since 2004) and Energy Crop Scheme Establishment grants (for short rotation coppice and miscanthus only). Land used for such crops could, in most circumstances, also be used to support annual payment claims under the single payment scheme since its introduction in 2005.

Bluetongue Disease

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what plans he has for a vaccination strategy for bluetongue disease when a vaccine becomes available; [160650]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of doses of bluetongue vaccine which will be necessary to eradicate the disease from the UK; [160651]

(3) how much bluetongue vaccine his Department has reserved from the developer of the vaccine; [160652]

Jonathan Shaw: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has for blood-testing of ruminants outside the bluetongue protection zone to establish the spread of the disease. [160654]

Jonathan Shaw: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice he has received on the likelihood of uninfected midges becoming infected in 2008 from biting ruminants which have recovered from bluetongue disease. [160655]

Jonathan Shaw: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the imposition of the localised bluetongue zone on the pedigree sheep and cattle market; and if he will extend the zone to the whole of the UK. [161321]

Jonathan Shaw: Assessments have been made, for the livestock industry as a whole, of the impact of current disease control measures. Separate assessments of the effect on the pedigree sheep and cattle market have not been made as these would be subject to considerable margins of error.

In agreement with a core group of industry stakeholders, DEFRA remains committed to a disease control approach which aims to contain disease within the current control and protection zones, in line with 'Phase 1' of the UK Bluetongue Control Strategy. This takes into account the epidemiological situation, the time of year (coming towards the end of the vector season), and the cost benefit analysis of disease control measures and their likely economic impacts.

This assessment remains under constant review, and recognises that efforts to contain disease may become disproportionate to the costs to industry, and therefore the strategy may have to change. However, using the above assessment, this point has not yet been reached.

Bluetongue Disease: Disease Control

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many farms are in bluetongue control and protection zones. [160816]

Jonathan Shaw: As of 5 pm on 24 October the current bluetongue control and protection zones contained a total of 233,581 farm premises.

Of this total, 44,405 farm premises are in the control zones, 9,890 of which hold bluetongue virus susceptible animals. In the bluetongue protection zone there are 189,176 farm premises, of which 53,610 hold bluetongue virus susceptible animals.

These figures are subject to frequent change as the bluetongue control and protection zones continue to be amended to reflect confirmation of further infected premises.

Note: The dataset used to derive these figures is a GB premises list that the RADAR team and National Emergencies Epidemiology Group created. It contains all premises with a live county parish holding number from the VETNET system.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he received the report Bovine TB in Cattle and Badgers: A Report by the Chief Scientific Adviser, Sir David King; when he commissioned the report; what its terms of reference were; what steps he now plans to take; and if he will make a statement. [161251]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* Sir David King's report was sent to the Secretary of State on 30 July. On 31 May 2007, my right hon. Friend the then Secretary of State noted that once the final report of the Independent Scientific Group on Cattle TB (ISG) was received, it would be important to have an assessment from the Chief Scientific Adviser of any key scientific issues on the role that badger culling could play in controlling and reducing levels of cattle tuberculosis (TB) in England. On 11 June, Sir David King confirmed that, once the ISG report was received, he would carry out a short assessment of the key scientific issues in this area. Formal terms of reference were not established, although discussions about the broad scope began on 4 June. Following publication of the ISG report on 18 June, more detailed discussions took place about the issues to be covered.

My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State, has been clear that the next steps are for the ministerial team to have discussions with interested parties, including with Professor John Bourne and Sir David King, to gauge their views. We also wish to take into account the views stemming from the current Environment Food and Rural Affairs Select Committee inquiry before we make a decision.

As the recent debate has shown, the science is complex and publication of Sir David King's advice is not an indication we are near a decision, nor is it an indication of what that decision may be.

Irrespective of any decision on wildlife control, cattle controls remain of critical importance.

British Waterways Board: Finance

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) when he plans to decide on the grant his Department will allocate to British Waterways in the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 period; and if he will make a statement; [160725]

(2) how much grant-in-aid he has allocated to British Waterways for each of the five years following the publication of the Comprehensive Spending Review; and if he will make a statement; [160795]

(3) what his most recent estimate is of when British Waterways will complete its maintenance arrears; and if he will make a statement. [160796]

Jonathan Shaw: The formal CSR settlement for 2008-09 to 2010-11 has been announced. This will now be followed by DEFRA's own financial allocation process, which will take account of the Department's full range of priorities. As part of this process we are discussing a number of funding scenarios with British Waterways (BW) in the context of developing a sustainable and affordable long-term strategy for the waterways. This strategy will consider network condition alongside wider economic, social, and environmental benefits from the waterways. In the short to medium term while the strategy is being fully developed BW plan to hold waterway asset condition broadly at existing levels overall.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to negotiate a long-term contract for the grant funding of British Waterways of *(a)* four years, *(b)* seven years and *(c)* another specified period of time; and if he will make a statement. [160726]

Jonathan Shaw: British Waterways and DEFRA are working closely together on planning for the CSR07 period. DEFRA's allocation to British Waterways will be set in the context of the Department's overall priorities and financial resources. We are looking at scenarios for different spend levels and how impacts are to be managed in the context of a new long term strategy that will deliver a network that is sustainable and affordable.

DEFRA and British Waterways recognise the value of giving British Waterways more security in its long term funding so that it can be more certain in its decision making, but the Department needs to retain some flexibility over budgets within a tight CSR settlement. We will continue to consider this issue with BW, including in the context of the current review of options for BW's future status.

Carbon Emissions

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he plans to take to encourage low income families to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions. [159811]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 25 October 2007]:* Our fuel poverty policies aim to improve the energy efficiency of homes of the fuel poor. The Warm Front Scheme is the Government's main programme for assisting vulnerable households in the private sector in danger of fuel poverty. Eligibility for the Scheme is based on the applicant qualifying for one of a number of benefits.

Through the Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC), we require energy suppliers to meet targets for the promotion of improvements in household energy efficiency in Great Britain. They do this by encouraging and assisting consumers to take up energy efficiency measures like insulation.

Under the third phase of the EEC 2008-11, known as the Carbon Emission Reduction Target (CERT) we will maintain a focus on low-income consumers. Under the current Energy Efficiency Commitment, energy suppliers are required to direct at least 50 per cent. of energy savings to a priority group of low-income consumers. As a result EEC will make some contribution to the eradication of fuel poverty.

We continue to grant fund the Energy Saving Trust, which provides information and advice on energy saving action to individuals and householders, including those on low-incomes, via their Energy Efficiency Advice Centres and grant information database.

Cattle

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many cattle there were in the UK in each of the last 10 years. [159653]

Jonathan Shaw: Total cattle and calves on registered holdings in the UK are shown as follows.

	Total cattle and calves
1998	11,518,817
1999	11,423,355
2000	11,134,613
2001	10,602,135
2002	10,345,261
2003	10,508,150
2004	10,588,105
2005	10,770,221
2006	10,578,831
2007	10,311,756

Note:
Figures for 1998 to 2004 are from published June Survey data. The 2007 cattle figures have been sourced from the Cattle Tracing System (CTS) in England and Wales, the equivalent APHIS system in Northern Ireland and survey data in Scotland. For continuity data for 2005 and 2006 have also been calculated using the CTS and APHIS data. We estimate the effect of the change in data source has been an increase in cattle numbers by between three and 4 per cent.
Source:
June Agricultural Survey (1998-2004), CTS and APHIS (2005-07).

Climate Change

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress his Department has made with its policy on formulating a global climate change framework since the production of the document entitled A Global Compact on Climate, produced on 10 June 2004. [161793]

Mr. Woolas: Since June 2004, the UK has worked hard to reinvigorate the international negotiations on a post-2012 climate change framework, particularly through its 2005 G8 and European Union (EU) presidencies.

At the Montreal United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) meeting (COP11, COP/MOP1) in December 2005, parties to the Kyoto Protocol and under the UNFCCC) agreed to begin discussions (not negotiations) on strengthening the implementation of the Convention through the so-called Convention Dialogue.

These discussions have been continuing since December 2005 and at the climate change conference in Bali in December 2007, COP13 parties will have to agree on the continuation of this Dialogue and its conversion into negotiations, which focus on the contributions from developing countries.

This important decision will make it possible to start negotiating a global and comprehensive climate change framework.

Climate Change: United Nations

Anne Moffat: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress was made on tackling climate change at the UN Secretary-General's meeting of Heads of State and Government on climate change in New York on 24 September 2007. [160756]

Mr. Woolas [*holding answer 29 October 2007*]: On 24 September, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon convened the first-ever meeting of Heads of State and Government focused on climate change. World leaders expressed their will to tackle climate

change through concerted action, sending a strong political signal ahead of the UN Climate Change Conference in Bali.

164 member states participated including 80 heads of state. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State emphasised the need to clearly set out a plan for avoiding dangerous climate change—to move from an international global warming pact in Bali this December to a global and comprehensive agreement, rooted in the UN Framework Convention, by December 2009 in Copenhagen.

Four sessions were held throughout the day on the key issues of adaptation, mitigation, technology and financing. Speaking in the financing plenary my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State pushed for limiting temperature rise to two degrees through a global reduction of 50 per cent. in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 on 1990 emissions; binding targets for all Annex 1 developed countries to reduce emissions and generate the carbon market finance needed to help developing countries—whose responsibilities would increase as they developed; and innovative financing for avoided deforestation, adaptation and clean energy.

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what departmental budget items have been reclassified, under Consolidated Budgeting Guidance, following Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 decisions; and what the *(a)* former and *(b)* new (i) classification and (ii) sum budgeted is in each case. [160414]

Jonathan Shaw: No budget items have been reclassified as a result of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007. The Review and its outcome as announced on 9 October were agreed on the basis of the current HM Treasury Consolidated Budgeting Guidance.

Departments: Alnwick

Mr. Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total number of reductions proposed is in the Department's staff at its offices in Alnwick, Northumberland. [157823]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 19 October 2007]:* In the current financial year 2007-08, shared services directorate (SSD) in Alnwick has plans to reduce existing staff levels by six FTE (full-time equivalents) as the result of the implementation of new technology that makes invoice processing more efficient. This will be achieved from not renewing short and fixed term appointments. While SSD is committed to continue to drive operational efficiencies, the current intention is that any resulting job losses would be offset by the increase in the volume of transactions to be processed by the Alnwick team as more members of the Defra network take services from SSD.

The anticipated reductions from restructuring and business improvement in our Chief Information Officer's directorate have been partly offset by the transfer of some additional work from London. Overall staffing in Alnwick will be reduced by the equivalent of seven full-time posts by April 2008. These reductions are being achieved through voluntary early retirement/severance and the transfer of common service functions to an external facilities management provider.

Departments: Assets

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what departmental assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; and what the expected revenue from each such sale is. [160352]

Jonathan Shaw: For reasons of commercial sensitivity it is unfortunately not possible to itemise the net book value and expected sale revenue of each asset currently planned for disposal. However the Department is taking professional advice to ensure value for money and to maximise the return on these disposals.

The Department currently anticipates total receipts from the sale of assets of approximately £9 million in 2007-08; 3£6 million in 2008-09; £10 million in 2009-10 and £5 million in 2010-11. The disposals planned for the latter three years will form part of the Department's Asset Management Strategy to be published in December this year.

Estimates of sale proceeds are subject to fluctuations in the property market and cannot be guaranteed, nor can it be stated with certainty exactly when these sales will take place.

It should also be noted that the figures apply to the wider DEFRA network, not just to the core Department. The assets in question are surplus or under-utilised land and property. The largest anticipated sale is that of DEFRA-owned land and buildings at Guildford, and we expect this to account for approximately one third of the income from asset disposals over the period 2007-08 to 2010-11.

Departments: Civil Proceedings

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many civil law suits have been brought against his Department based either wholly or partially on grounds provided by the Human Rights Act 1998; how many were settled out of court, before a court judgment was delivered; and how much such settlements cost the public purse since 1998. [160701]

Jonathan Shaw: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departments: Disabled

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which buildings occupied by his Department *(a)* are and *(b)* are not fully accessible to disabled people; and if he will make a statement. [161174]

Jonathan Shaw: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departments: Fish

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which companies have contracts to supply his Department with fish; and when those contracts will end; [160962]

(2) what consideration his Department has given to introducing a sustainable seafood procurement policy; [160963]

(3) what quantity of cod from the North Sea or Eastern Baltic was procured by his Department in 2006. [160964]

Jonathan Shaw: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departments: Food

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of each type of food served in his Department's catering establishments was of (a) British and (b) Welsh origin in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [160751]

Jonathan Shaw: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether any of his Department's special advisers have declared a conflict of interest. [160783]

Jonathan Shaw: Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the "Model Contract for Special Advisers". Copies of the "Model Contract" are available in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the name is of each special adviser in his Department. [153099]

Jonathan Shaw: The annual list of special adviser names will be published shortly.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on official hospitality by his Department in the last 12 months. [158891]

Jonathan Shaw: From information held centrally, the core-Department's expenditure on hospitality from October 2006 to September 2007 inclusive is £467,347. All hospitality expenditure incurred by the Department is made in accordance with departmental guidance based on the principles set in Government Accounting.

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on how many occasions he has visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [158919]

Jonathan Shaw: Since taking office on 27 June, the Secretary of State has visited the English regions as set out in the following table. All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code.

	Number
North West	1
South East	4
West Midlands	2
South West	1
East of England	1
Yorkshire and Humber	2

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what dates his Department breached its *(a)* resource, *(b)* near-cash, *(c)* administration and *(d)* capital budgets since 2001; what the value of each breach was; and what the reason was for each breach. [160315]

Jonathan Shaw: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in which financial years since 2001 his Department's outturn for its capital budget at the end of the year was less than planned at the beginning of the year; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* reason for the underspend was in each case. [160334]

Jonathan Shaw: The National Audit Office measures spending performance against plans by comparing outturns against final provision following supplementary estimates—rather than against plans at the start of the year—as plans can change during the year for a number of reasons, such as machinery of government and classification changes. The definitive figures for final provision and provisional outturn are published each year in the Public Expenditure Outturns White Paper (PEOWP).

In financial years 2001-02, 2002-03, 2003-04 and 2004-05, the outturn for DEFRA's capital budget at the end of each year was less than the final budget provision for the year. Details and reasons for the variances are set out in the following table.

£000

Capital expenditure	*Final budget provision*	*Outturn*	*Variance*
2001-02	515,580	477,008	-38,572[1]
2002-03	567,527	493,582	-73,945[2]
2003-04	362,618	332,755	-29,863[3]

£000

Capital expenditure	Final budget provision	Outturn	Variance
2004-05	331,330	326,887	-4,443[4]

[1] The underspend arose mainly from capital grant payments in respect of flood defence to the Environment Agency flood and coast protection grants to the local authorities.
[2] The key underspend was on various capital projects within the core Department (£88 million), its agencies and sponsored bodies including EU structural schemes (£22 million) which was partially offset by overspend of around £39 million on capital grants.
[3] The underspend was mainly due to in-house capital projects within core DEFRA and capital grants to local authorities.
[4] The underspend mainly related to in-house IT capital projects within core DEFRA

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the considerable budgetary problems as a result of unfunded pressures in the 2006-07 financial year were referred to in the Government's response to the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Committee's Seventh Report of Session 2006-07, page 2; and if he will make a statement. [160794]

Jonathan Shaw: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departments: Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many citizens' juries have been arranged by his Department since June 2007; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the estimated cost is of each exercise. [159505]

Jonathan Shaw: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many citizens' juries were arranged for *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* his Department's and its predecessor's agencies in each year since 1997; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the cost was of each. [160014]

Jonathan Shaw: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departments: Retirement

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many employees in his Department applied to continue to work beyond state retirement age in the latest year or part thereof for which figures are available; and how many of those applications were successful. [161282]

Jonathan Shaw: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departments: Standards

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many of his Department's public service agreement targets *(a)* take and *(b)* do not take account of rural proofing. [159632]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA takes into consideration the impact on rural areas of its other policies. Rural proofing is a technique which aims to ensure that the impact of policies on rural communities is taken fully into account in their development. It is in widespread use, both in developing the two PSAs DEFRA will lead under CSR07 arrangements (on climate change and the natural environment), and in other policy areas for which the department is responsible. One of DEFRA's Departmental Strategic Objectives for the CSR07 period is for "Strong rural communities", showing the continued departmental focus on addressing the needs of rural areas.

Departments: Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many and what percentage of questions tabled to his Department for answer on a named day received a substantive reply on the day named in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [161346]

Jonathan Shaw: At 29 October my Department had received 4,692 parliamentary questions, of these 798 were named day.

376 received a substantive reply on the named day, which equates to 49 per cent.

Diseases: Badgers

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which species of mycobacteria are carried by badgers. [161704]

Jonathan Shaw: Badgers are known to carry Mycobacterium bovis, which can cause tuberculosis in badgers and other animals such as cattle. Research at the Veterinary Laboratories Agency has found badgers with an immunological response to PPD-A, which means they have likely been exposed to M. avium.

There are many species of mycobacterium and some can be very difficult to culture. Research studies in badgers have concentrated primarily on culture of M. bovis and therefore few other species have been found. Badger samples have been found to harbour M. avium paratuberculosis by researchers in Scotland.

Domestic Wastes: Recycling

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what research and statistical data gathering has been undertaken by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies into the proportion and tonnage of household waste collected for recycling which is sent for processing outside the UK. [158112]

Joan Ruddock: The Government-sponsored Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has undertaken research to assess the international markets for key recyclable wastes: plastic, paper and glass. These papers are available on WRAP's website.

DEFRA does not have available data on the proportion of household waste that is sent abroad for recycling. However, based on HM Revenue and Customs figures, it is estimated that in 2006, the UK exported some 8 million tonnes of metal scrap, 4 million tonnes of paper, 441,000 tonnes of plastic and 136,000 tonnes of glass cullet. These figures will include recyclable materials collected from all sources including households, commerce and industry.

Energy: Conservation

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to publish the report required by the Climate Change and Energy Efficiency Act 2006 on progress towards the domestic energy efficiency targets set in the Housing Act 2004. [158057]

Mr. Woolas: The Government's Fourth Annual Progress Report on progress towards the 2003 Energy White Paper goals was published as Annex A of the Energy White Paper, on 23 May 2007.

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what definition he is using of the rest of the public estate as it appears at paragraph 140 of his Department's document, Energy Efficiency: The Government's Plan for Action (Cm 6168), published in April 2004. [159893]

Mr. Woolas: The building procurement targets referred to in the 2004 Energy Efficiency Action plan were superseded in October 2005 by Common Minimum Standards for Construction Procurement, which apply to central Government and other public sector organisations such as local authorities, health trusts and the police. In June 2006 the Prime Minister announced stretching Sustainable Operations targets for the central Government estate. The UK published its latest Energy Efficiency Action Plan in June 2007.

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much of the £20 million announced in the 2006 Budget to help local authorities, households and others to promote energy efficiency has been allocated to *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* Suffolk. [161610]

Mr. Woolas: It is too early to say.

As part of a broader reprioritisation, related to wider budget pressures, funds have been reduced to £15.25 million. Of this, £4.75 million has been provided to the Ofgem-led Energy Demand Research trials that were launched in July 2007. £10 million has been provided to the Carbon Trust's Partnerships for Renewables, announced in September 2006. Of this, approximately £70,000 has already been allocated for feasibility studies in the East of England. We are considering options for the best use of the remaining £0.5 million.

Farmers: Income

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average income for farmers *(a)* per capita and *(b)* per hectare was in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [160748]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 25 October 2007]:* The average net farm income per farm business[1] and per hectare is shown in the following table.

[1] These results relate to farms of size at least ½ Standard Labour Requirement, a size considered sufficient to occupy a farmer half-time.

March to February each year

	2000-01	*2001-02*[1]	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
NFI (£)	10,600	14,900	16,600	29,500	21,200	21,100
NFI £ per ha	81	106	115	214	159	164

[1] Excludes farm subjected to compulsory foot and mouth disease cull.

Source:
Farm Business Survey

Net farm income is defined as the return to the principal farmer and spouse for their manual and managerial labour and on the tenant type capital invested in the business.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the proportion of farm households that are below the Government's low income threshold. [160749]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 25 October 2007]:* For the population as a whole, the Government have a preferred measure of low income' defined as 60 per cent. of the median equivalised income for all UK households after tax. It may be presented either before housing costs or after housing costs.

The Farm Business Survey is not able to provide figures for household income net of tax so farm household incomes cannot be compared directly with the low income threshold. Instead, they are compared with a modified low income threshold defined as 60 per cent. of the England median equivalised income before tax and before housing costs. This has been calculated from 2004-05 Family Resources Survey data and shows that 31 per cent. of farm households[1] were below the modified low income threshold in 2005-06.

[1] These results relate to farms of size at least ½ Standard Labour Requirement, a size considered sufficient to occupy a farmer half-time.

Fisheries

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to bring forward proposals to act on the recommendations of the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit's Net Benefits report. [161782]

Jonathan Shaw: Our plans to take forward the recommendations in the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit report "Net Benefits" were set out in "Securing the Benefits", a joint UK response. The recommendations

concerned with fisheries in England were addressed in DEFRA's "Charting a New Course". Both documents were published in 2005 and are available in the Library of the House.

Flood Control

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken to improve building design and urban design to manage surface water better. [161101]

Mr. Woolas: We expect to make a range of announcements on how to better manage surface water drainage in the upcoming Government Water Strategy. This will take on board the recommendations set out in Sir Michael Pitt's interim report on Lessons Learned, due out later this year; and results emerging from the 15 pilot projects on urban drainage that DEFRA is currently funding.

For new development, the Government are encouraging use of sustainable drainage systems (SUDS). These comprise a variety of techniques ranging from source control to infiltration, conveyance and storage features. Building Regulations provide guidance on the incorporation of SUDS in drainage systems, stating that the preferred option for surface water drainage should be to an adequate soakaway or other infiltration system.

In addition, the Government's recently strengthened guidance on development and flood risk, PPS25, encourages operating authorities to consider a more holistic approach to managing surface water, for example through the development of Surface Water Management Plans.

Flood Control: Finance

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 85W, on Flood Control: Finance, when he plans to publish the set of criteria which has been developed to provide greater clarity on what funding and policies for flood and coastal erosion risk management are intended to achieve. [161854]

Mr. Woolas: Following public consultation, new Outcome Measures for flood and coastal erosion risk management were agreed in June and the details have been published on the DEFRA website.

It is anticipated that the Outcome Measures will be used to set targets progressively during the period covered by the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review, starting with the capital programme in 2008-09. An initial review is planned for the second half of 2008 to inform any Spending Review in 2009.

Floods: Housing

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many homes in each *(a)* region, *(b)* county and *(c)* local authority area were classified as being at risk of flooding in each year since 1997. [160676]

Mr. Woolas: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Floods: North West Region

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government are taking to upgrade drainage and sewer systems to protect against flooding, with particular reference to the North West. [161100]

Mr. Woolas: Water and sewerage companies are responsible for operating and maintaining the public sewerage. They are currently formulating their long-term plans for delivering improvements to sewerage networks to ensure they meet consumer expectations and legal obligations over the long-term. Ofwat will next set price limits in 2009 for the period 2010-15 and these plans will be considered by Ofwat and the Environment Agency.

My Department is leading development of the cross-Government strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management—Making Space for Water. This is looking at a broad range of sustainable measures to manage the risk from all forms of flooding—river, coastal, groundwater, surface run-off and sewer, including consideration of urban drainage.

In addition, our new national strategy for water, which will be published early in 2008 to take account of interim findings from Sir Michael Pitt's review of this summer's flooding, will consider surface water management and flooding with other aspects of water supply and demand, water quality, and climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Fly Tipping

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps are being taken by his Department to tackle fly tipping. [160713]

Joan Ruddock: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Fly Tipping: Databases

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to ensure that local authorities comply with Government guidelines when entering records on the Flycapture Database so that those records are harmonised and the resulting published tables reflect a fair comparison of local authority performance. [158056]

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will assess the adequacy of the landfill allowance under the landfill tax scheme for local authorities with rising populations. [158278]

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of replacement white goods and televisions were recycled in England in the last year for which figures are available. [159829]

Joan Ruddock: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Food

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of *(a)* the food produced in the UK and *(b)* the UK's annual food requirement was produced in (i) England, (ii) Wales, (iii) Scotland and (iv) Northern Ireland in each of the last five years. [161329]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* The proportion of food produced in the UK which is produced in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland based on the farm-gate value of raw food is given in the following table:

					Percentage
	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
England	71	71	70	71	72
Wales	8	8	8	8	7
Scotland	13	13	13	12	13
Northern Ireland	9	9	9	9	8
UK	100	100	100	100	100

No figures are available for the UK population's annual calorific food requirement. However, figures based on levels of consumption in the UK are available. The following table gives the proportion of food for human consumption in the UK which is produced in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland based on the farm-gate value of raw food:

					Percentage
	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
England	44	45	43	42	42
Wales	5	5	5	5	4
Scotland	8	8	8	7	7
Northern Ireland	5	6	6	5	5
UK	62	64	62	59	58

Foot and Mouth Disease

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to improve communication methods between his Department's officials and farmers during foot and mouth disease outbreaks. [161558]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* It has been a priority for Defra Ministers and officials to work closely with, and listen to, farmers and the leaders of industry during the outbreaks of foot and mouth disease (FMD). Defra has been working closely with a wide range of farming industry stakeholders on a daily basis to ensure that there is effective communication with farmers.

All registered keepers of livestock within the initial FMD Protection and Surveillance Zones were contacted within 24 hours of the zones being declared.

Since the start of the FMD outbreak on 3 August, approximately one million information messages have been sent to stakeholders. These include voicemail messages, text messages, e-mails and facsimiles. In addition, approximately 10,000 information packs have been sent to registered livestock keepers. Furthermore, Animal Health has launched a public voice recorded information line which is intended to serve an audience who are unable to access the Defra website. The Defra Helpline is also available for all queries relating to FMD.

Defra officials are keen to receive any specific proposals from stakeholders and livestock keepers about how communication methods could be further improved in the event of a disease outbreak.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Compensation

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make a statement on compensation to farmers who have been affected by export bans arising from the most recent foot and mouth outbreak. [159654]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 19 October 2007]:* It is a long established principle that the Government do not meet the costs of consequential losses which must be borne by the industry. However, we are acutely aware of the difficulties facing the industry at this time and my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State announced on 8 October a compensation package for England worth £12.5 million. This included £2 million to promote the sales of red meat and pork domestically and in our export markets.

Promoting consumption is an important first step towards recovery. Of the £2 million committed to domestic sales promotion, some will also go to facilitating and promoting exports, including looking further ahead to re-entering traditional third country markets.

We are in discussions with the British Pig Executive and the English Beef and Lamb Executive on how this can be spent most effectively. On 12 October, exports of meat to the EU were resumed from most of the country. We are working closely with the European Commission to decrease the restrictions that are in place on these exports, and to increase the area of the country where exports can take place from.

Foot and Mouth Disease: Shropshire

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will meet Shropshire farmers to discuss financial support following the foot and mouth outbreak in Surrey. [159162]

Jonathan Shaw: On 8 October, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs announced a support package worth £12.5 million to stimulate the market and assist those livestock farmers worst affected by restrictions imposed as a result of foot and mouth disease (FMD) 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 39.

Additionally, we have taken a risk-based and staged approach to easing movement restrictions when the evidence indicates that it is appropriate to do so. This is the best way to facilitate the return to normal working for the industry. All FMD-related restrictions in Shropshire were lifted on 17 October.

No further announcements on financial support are planned, but the Secretary of State would be happy to meet the hon. Member and a delegation of Shropshire farmers. He has asked his diary secretary to contact the hon. Member's office.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what changes there have been to the Government's approach to fuel poverty as a result of the new public service agreements. [161703]

Mr. Woolas: In line with new public service agreements (PSAs), fuel poverty has been announced as an indicator within Defra's and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform's departmental strategic objectives.

Fuel poverty is also incorporated within delivery agreements for Her Majesty's Treasury's Child Poverty PSA, Department for Work and Pension's Independence and Well-being in Later Life PSA, and Department of Health's Better Health and Well-being PSA.

The Government remain committed to tackling fuel poverty and promoting effective cross-departmental work to this end.

Government Departments: Combined Heat and Power

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of whether the target to source 15 per cent. of the electricity consumed on the Government estate from combined heat and power by 2010 will be met; and if he will make a statement. [161801]

Mr. Woolas: The Government estates performance in meeting this target is assessed by the independent Sustainable Development Commission which concluded in its 2006 report that although an increasing number of Departments were procuring electricity from good quality combined heat and power in 2005-06, take-up remains at a low level. However, the applicability of this target depends on whether Departments in their energy procurement strategy have alternatively secured 100 per cent. renewable electricity. Since the overall goal for Government Departments is to reduce carbon emissions, improve energy efficiency plus increase usage of renewable energy resources, progress on this target should be seen in the context of the performance on energy overall.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of electricity consumed on the Government estate is sourced from combined heat and power; and if he will make a statement. [161802]

Mr. Woolas: The Sustainable Development in Government (SDIG) Report 2006, published by the independent Sustainable Development Commission (SDC), which monitors how the Government manage sustainably their land and buildings notes that during the reporting period 2005-06, seven Departments sourced good quality combined heat and power (CHP). A total of 2.2 per cent. of electricity from the central Government estate for this reporting period was sourced from good quality CHP. Departmental data for 2006-07 will be published by the SDC in the new year.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's best practice policy is on the number of bids from contractors which should be obtained before a Warm Front grant may be given. [160846]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 25 October 2007]:* The appointment and management of contractors working on the Warm Front Scheme is undertaken by the Warm Front Scheme Manager, Eaga plc.

Contractors were selected at the beginning of the current phase of the Scheme in June 2005 via a comprehensive procurement exercise that complied with the requirements of the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) tendering regulations.

Prices for Warm Front work were set centrally, on a regional basis, as part of the competitive tendering process. In August 2007, White Young Green (WYG), in their role as independent auditors of the Warm Front Scheme, completed a review of the price of gas central heating equipment provided under the Scheme (taking into account regional variances). This review indicated that the measures provided are cost competitive against the market average. This review will shortly be available on the DEFRA website.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how frequently Warm Front's pricing structure for boiler and central heating installation is reviewed. [161195]

Mr. Woolas: Warm Front's pricing structure for boiler and central heating installations was set by competitive tender in 2005, and was reviewed in June 2007.

In addition the independent scheme auditors, White Young Green, undertook a review of Warm Front prices against the wider market in August 2007. This review will be available on the DEFRA website shortly.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many boilers were replaced by the Warm Front programme in each of the last three years; and what the average cost was of a replacement boiler. [161198]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the number of replacement boilers installed, and their average cost, under Warm Front since the introduction of 'heating for all Warm Front eligible clients' in 2005.

Period	Number of boiler replacements	Average cost (£)
1 June 2005 to 31 March 2006	28,011	2,407.12
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	53,694	2,547.53
1 April 2007 to 30 September 2007	53,694	2,434.90

Coincidently, the number of boiler replacements for two of the aforementioned listed periods are the same. The average cost is different because the levels of labour involved in the replacement, and the capacity of the boiler, varies from household to household.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many new radiators were installed using Warm Front grants in each of the last three years; and for how many properties. [161214]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the number of new radiators installed using Warm Front grants since the introduction of heating for all Warm Front eligible clients in 2005:

Period	Number of new radiators	Number of households
1 June 2005 to 31 March 2006	48,554	11,049
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	160,743	36,714
1 April 2007 to 30 September 2007	93,356	23,218

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many Warm Front grants have been made *(a)* in total, *(b)* of the maximum £2,700 and *(c)* of under £2,700. [161215]

Mr. Woolas: Since the introduction of the £2,700 grant maxima for Warm Front in 2005:

(a) 478,617 grants have been made in total;

(b) In 74,957 cases the total cost of the works undertaken in that household has exceeded the grant maxima, and therefore, the full £2,700 has been utilised;

(c) In 403,633 cases less than the £2,700 grant available has been utilised.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many quotes for boiler replacement by Warm Front exceeded £2,700 in each of the last three years. [161216]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the number of Warm Front quotes for boiler replacements that exceeded 2,700, since the introduction of heating for all Warm Front eligible clients in 2005.

Period	Number of quotes exceeding £2,700
1 June 2005 to 31 March 2006	364
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	10,755
1 April 2007 to 30 September 2007	12,458

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Contracts

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which companies won the tender to supply boiler and central heating installations for Warm Front; and where they are located; [161253]

(2) how many companies participated in the competitive tendering bid to win the Warm Front boiler and central heating installation contract; and where they are located. [161255]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* Following a Defra managed competitive tendering process, two contracts were awarded for the supply of materials to the Warm Front scheme.

The successful bidders were Graham Group (Saint-Gobain) which has headquarters in Binley, and Plumb Centre (Wolseley) which has headquarters in Leamington Spa. Both suppliers have local distribution centres nationwide.

30 companies were invited to participate in the pre-qualification, following which eight were invited to bid, four submitted bids. The appointment of Warm Front installers is carried out by the Warm Front scheme manager, Eaga plc. A total of 218 companies bid to work on the scheme with 83 appointed to work on central heating. These installers are based across the country.

Mr. Skinner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which contractors are used by the Warm Front scheme in the East Midlands. [161426]

Mr. Woolas: The following 30 contractors are used by the Warm Front Scheme in the East Midlands:

Better Plumbing Services, BGC Ltd., Blue Flag, Castle Point Insulation Ltd,, Cosy Home Insulations Ltd., East Coast Gas Services, Fenhams Contracts, Glowwarm Central Heating Ltd., Heating Efficiency Services Ltd., Heating Renewables Ltd., Iguana Services Ltd., Interglow, J. and J. Crump and Sons Ltd., Joatrad Services Ltd., JPS Insulation Ltd., Kershaw Contracting Services Ltd., KHI Ltd., Mark Insulations, Miller Pattison, Millfold, Paul Brant Plumbing and Heating Ltd., Perry Electrical, Premier Energy Solutions, Pro Gas Ltd., Smethwick Energy Action Ltd., Solar Wall Ltd., Sun Realm Ltd., StayWarm Insulation, UK Quality Solutions, Westville Insulation.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will list all current Warm Front contractors; and what the value was of each contract for the 2006-07 financial year. [161749]

Mr. Woolas: The following information shows a list of current Warm Front Scheme contractors . It is not possible to indicate the value of each contract for the last financial year at a reasonable cost.

Company

1A Autoheat Ltd. T/A Gascare

1st Saxon - Clenmay Ltd.

A & N Evans Plumbing & Heating Ltd.

A. K. M. Heating Ltd.

Amara Heating Ltd.

Amberglow Central Heating Services
AMD Heating
ASBRO Ltd.
AW Fairhurst Ltd.
B & R Heating Ltd.
B. Bowden & Co. Ltd.
Better Plumbing Services Ltd.
BGC Ltd.
Blue Flag Ltd.
Cable Network Construction
Central Installations Ltd.
City Utility Services
Compass Gas Ltd.
Complete Electrical (UK) Ltd.
Cosytop Thermal Insulations Ltd.
D J Heating Ltd.
Dane Housing (Congleton) Ltd.
Darfield Heating Services Ltd.
Dawsetway Ltd.
Direct Line Maintenance Services Ltd.
Domestic & General Insulation Ltd.
Dyson Insulations Ltd.
East Coast Gas Services (Grimsby)
Enterprise Managed Services Ltd.
Excelsior Homecare Ltd.
F J Jones Heating Engineers Ltd.
Fenhams Contracts
Gas Call Services Ltd.
Gavin Ward Ltd.
General Gas Services Ltd.
Glowarm Central Heating Ltd.
Glowarm DSP Ltd.
Govan Gas Services Ltd.
Harland Rise Ltd.
Heatex Quality Insulation Ltd.
Heating Efficiency Systems Ltd.
Heating Solutions T/A Premier Services
Home Insulation Services NW Ltd.
Iguana Services Ltd.
Interglow (Contracts) Ltd.
Ivor R. Cook Ltd.
J M C Plumbing & Heating Ltd.
J&W Heating and Plumbing Ltd.
Joatrad Services Ltd. (JSL)
Johnson & Starley Ltd.
Kelco Heating Ltd.
Kershaw Contracting Services Ltd.
KNW Ltd.
L&J Electrical and Mechanical Services Ltd.
Lancashire Mechanical Services Ltd.
Lofty Installations
On Tap Heating Ltd.
Orion Insulation and Construction Services Ltd.
Paul Brant Plumbing & Heating
Perry Electrical Ltd.
Pro Gas Services (Hull) Ltd.
Proco Services Ltd.
Quake Energy
Quality Heating Services Ltd.
R. McGinty Ltd.
S & A Heating
SOL Energy Ltd.
Southern Electric Contracting Ltd.
Sun Realm Heating Co. Ltd.
Super Warm Ltd.
Sutcliffe Plumbing & Heating (South West) Ltd.
Swale Heating Ltd.
The Heating Company (UK) Ltd. T/A Total Trade Services
The Insulation Company (T.I.C.)
Viscount Environmental Ltd.
Warmer Heating Ltd.
Wessex Electricals (Shaftesbury) Ltd.
West Anglia Insulation Ltd.
Zanet Ltd. T/A Gascare Heating

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Costs

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what market testing has been carried out under the Warm Front scheme of the costs of labour, radiators and boilers. [161748]

Mr. Woolas: In August, White Young Green in its role as independent auditors of the Warm Front Scheme, completed a review of the price of gas central heating equipment provided under the Scheme (taking into account regional variances).

This review indicated that the measures provided are cost competitive against the market average. The review will be available shortly on the DEFRA website.

A similar assessment of oil fired systems is near to completion, with early indications, once again, showing the Warm Front scheme to be cost competitive against the market average.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Heating

Mr. Skinner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many homes have been provided with heating under the Warm Front scheme in *(a)* England and *(b)* Bolsover constituency in the last two years. [161427]

Mr. Woolas: In the last two Warm Front Scheme years 142,041 households have been provided with heating in England and 309 households have been provided with heating in the Bolsover constituency.

The following table shows a yearly breakdown of the figures.

	2006-07	*[1]2007-08*
England	86,527	55,514
Bolsover	142	167

[1] Year to date figures

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Prices

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how Warm Front's pricing structure for central heating installation was determined. [161256]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* Warm Front's pricing structure for central heating installation is based on the cost of materials and the cost of labour.

The cost of materials was determined by a competitive tender process undertaken by my Department to award contracts to supply materials. The contracts were won by Plumb Center (Wolseley) and Graham Group (Saint-Gobain).

The cost of labour was determined by a competitive tender process undertaken by Eaga plc. Eaga plc was appointed the main contractor for Warm Front following an earlier competitive tender run by DEFRA. Eaga plc oversaw a competitive bidding process to appoint sub-contractors across the UK to support the delivery of the scheme. Through this process, Eaga plc was able to set regionalised labour prices as determined by the tender.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the variation of the market rate for boiler and central heating installation across the UK; and how the variation is reflected in Warm Front's pricing formula. [161257]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* In August 2007, White Young Green, in its role as independent auditors of the Warm Front Scheme, completed a review of the price of gas central heating equipment provided under the Scheme (taking into account regional variances). This review indicated that the measures provided are cost competitive against the market average. The review will be available shortly on the DEFRA website.

To control the risk of rising prices, Warm Front obtained a two year price fix on materials starting in June 2005. Following a competitive tender to appoint sub contractors across England, the Scheme Manager, Eaga plc, put in place standard regionalised rates for labour (Eaga plc has reserved the right to re-tender these contracts in 2008).

Following the recent expiry of the two year price fix on materials, the need to track market changes is clearly important. The White Young Green review has provided confidence that the Warm Front Scheme remains competitive.

Housing: Northamptonshire

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the potential impact of proposed additional housing development in north Northamptonshire over the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [160823]

Jonathan Shaw: My Department works closely with the Department for Communities and Local Government on the environmental dimension of housing policy, including plans for housing growth and the provision of environmental infrastructure. This is evidenced by the strong environmental content of the recent Housing Green Paper. In north Northamptonshire, Defra's agencies have worked with key regional partners to produce a water cycle strategy for Corby, and subsequently the wider north Northamptonshire area, to support the development of the North Northamptonshire Core Strategy.

Inland Waterways: Floods

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with British Waterways on flood management strategies; what funding he has made available to British Waterways for their role in flood management; and if he will make a statement. [160727]

Jonathan Shaw: British Waterway's contribution to flood management on a national scale is relatively limited as canals are not designed to take flood flows, but locally its contribution can be significant. British Waterways is currently working on a national flood management plan which will set the framework for addressing current and future risks to its network (due for completion at end of 2008).

Following the recent heavy floods, the Government have initiated a wide-ranging and thorough review to identify and lessons to be learned for the way that we manage and respond to such flooding events. This is being led by an independent chair, Sir Michael Pitt. All relevant aspects will be included. Initial findings are likely to be published towards the end of the year, followed by a formal report.

Landfill

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will allow local authorities to carry over their landfill allowance credits after the 2010 cut off period provided the UK has reached its EU landfill reduction target by this time. [161465]

Joan Ruddock: Under the Landfill Allowances Trading Scheme, allowances have been allocated for waste disposal authorities for each year from 2005-06 to 2019-20. The number of allowances available nationally is limited in order to meet the UK's derogated Landfill Directive targets in 2010, 2013 and 2020.

Waste disposal authorities (WDA) may not carry over surplus allowances in target years into the following year. This is a consequence of preventing the borrowing of allowances across target years. This check on the scheme is required to ensure that the UK as a whole does not exceed its targets.

Meat: Storage

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what proportion of the private cold storage facility available to his Department was in use for lamb and beef carcasses in the week beginning *(a)* 3 September 2007, *(b)* 10 September 2007, *(c)* 17 September 2007, *(d)* 24 September 2007 and *(e)* 1 October 2007; [160636]

(2) what the capacity is of private storage for lamb carcases available for use by his Department in each parliamentary constituency. [160637]

Jonathan Shaw: DEFRA does not hold any food stock or private cold storage facility.

Organic Farming: Diseases

Mr. Walter: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will review the level of compensation payable for organic or pedigree organic animals slaughtered because they are either infected with or suspected of having bovine tuberculosis, BSE, brucellosis and enzootic bovine leukosis. [161794]

Jonathan Shaw: The Government recognise that the current table valuation based compensation system is a cause of concern to some farmers of organic animals. We are therefore considering whether system enhancements might be necessary, and what these might be.

While DEFRA has not ruled out the possibility of changes to the compensation system, any changes would need to be justified and take into account the interests of all parties, including taxpayers. They would also need to take account of the extensive evidence in the level of over-valuation experienced under the previous system based on individual valuations.

Overseas Aid: Environment Protection

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the budget is for the Environmental Transformation Fund for *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10 and *(d)* 2010-11. [159957]

Joan Ruddock: As announced in the comprehensive spending review, the domestic element of the Environmental Transformation Fund (ETF) will total £370 million over the next three years. The domestic funding will be divided between the Department for Business Enterprise Regulatory Reform (BERR) and DEFRA. DEFRA's share of the domestic ETF will be £170 million, to be invested within England, including an increase of £129 million over and above the Department's baseline budget in this area for the next three years. The Devolved Administrations will receive consequential funding from DEFRA's element of the fund.

Discussions are under way on the allocation of this element of the fund and the breakdown over financial years will be determined in due course.

In addition, the £800 million ETF International Window, jointly administered by DEFRA and the Department for International Development, is to be provisionally committed over the next three years to £100 million in 2008-09, £200 million in 2009-10 and £500 million in 2010-11.

Packaging: Recycling

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps the Government has taken to encourage private and public organisations to recycle packaging waste. [161227]

Joan Ruddock: The Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations oblige businesses, which have an annual turnover of more than £2 million, and which handle more than 50 tonnes of packaging a year, to recover a minimum of 60 per cent. and recycle at least 55 per cent. of their packaging waste by 2008.

In addition to increasing the levels of recovery and recycling across all packaging materials, they are also driving down the sizing and weight of packaged items. Packaging recycling has doubled since 1997 and statutory binding targets will ensure further improvements.

The Landfill Tax provides a significant incentive to minimise waste arisings and divert waste from landfill to more sustainable alternatives such as recycling. The Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) Programme (funded from Landfill Tax) allows businesses free and independent support and advice to help them increase their profitability by sending less waste to landfill and recycling more.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), which is partly funded by DEFRA, is responsible for delivering greater material efficiency, including increasing recycling rates. Its work on packaging waste interlinks with many aspects of recycling, such as working with local authorities to advise on recycling facilities and overcome barriers to recycling.

WRAP is working with the retail industry and manufacturers to reduce packaging waste and increase the recycled content of packaging through the 'Courtauld Commitment' agreement. This is a voluntary agreement which aims to halt packaging growth by 2008 and make absolute reductions in packaging waste by 2010.

The Government are determined to lead the way and has set itself demanding targets for reducing and recycling its own waste. The Government have also committed to using public procurement operations to stimulate the market for recycled materials and waste reduction.

Radioactive Waste: Public Participation

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what decision-making procedures he plans to put in place where differences of opinion arise regarding the hosting of a radioactive waste repository between a host community, wider local interests and decision making bodies; who will manage those procedures; and what legislation would regulate and establish such processes. [161787]

Mr. Woolas: We are currently consulting on the proposals for implementing geological disposal of the UK's higher activity radioactive waste in the consultation document "Managing Radioactive Waste Safely: a Framework for Implementing Geological Disposal".

The consultation is clear that to be credible, any community that expresses an interest in hosting a geological disposal facility must demonstrate a broad level of support. This can involve support from the host community, wider local interests and decision making bodies.

The consultation proposes that a host community works in partnership with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, and with other parties such as decision making

bodies, wider local interests and other relevant interested bodies. Proposals are not prescriptive and suggest it will be up to the local communities to decide on the constitution of a partnership.

The consultation document invites comments on the proposed approach.

Recycling: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what *(a)* statutory and *(b)* non-statutory central Government targets exist for local authorities to increase recycling and composting rates; what the dates are for those targets to be met; and on what dates the targets were introduced. [158114]

Joan Ruddock: Bi-annual statutory performance standards for recycling and composting were set for all local authorities in England for 2003-04, 2005-06 (as part of Waste Strategy 2000) and 2007-08 (announced in late 2006). Performance against these targets is measured by adding together recycling and composting rates under Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPIs) 82a (household waste the local authority sends for recycling) and 82b (waste sent by the authority to composting or anaerobic digestion). All BVPIs are monitored annually by the Audit Commission.

There are a number of BVPIs which relate to waste. Each year, Communities and Local Government (CLG) works with other Government Departments to set indicators for the next financial year. All authorities have a statutory duty to secure continuous improvement against these indicators.

Many of the BVPI's have been in effect since the start of Best Value in April 2000. However, some new indicators have been set, and some existing indicators have been revised either to improve their definition or to be more keenly aligned with Government policy.

The new set of national indicators for local authorities and local authority partnerships was announced on 9 October. These will apply from 2008-09 and will be measured on an annual basis. The 198 indicators are the means of measuring national priorities agreed by the Government and will allow us to performance-manage outcomes delivered by local government, working alone or in partnerships.

There are three annual waste indicators:

household waste not reused, recycled or composted (kilograms per head residual waste)

household waste recycled and composted (per cent.)

municipal waste landfilled (per cent.)

CLG will be consulting shortly (November 2007) on technical definitions for all these indicators.

The Landfill Allowances Trading Scheme (LATS), which was launched in April 2005, also places limits on the amount of biodegradable municipal waste that local authorities can landfill. Local authorities that exceed their limits are liable to a penalty of £150 per tonne.

In addition, the Household Waste Recycling Act 2003 requires all waste collection authorities (subject to certain exemptions) to provide a separate kerbside collection service for at least two recyclable materials by 2010.

Renewable Energy: Standards

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent representations he has received from *(a)* industry and *(b)* other Government Departments on the EU target to achieve 20 per cent. of energy needs from renewable sources by 2020; and if he will make a statement. [161732]

Mr. Woolas: The Secretary of State regularly meets representatives from industry and colleagues in other Government Departments to discuss the most effective ways to reduce carbon emissions, including issues relating to renewable energy.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with other EU member states on means of achieving the agreed EU renewable energy targets. [161733]

Mr. Woolas: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Rural Areas: Community Councils

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he plans to announce funding support for rural community councils for 2008-09. [161433]

Jonathan Shaw: A project to assess the case for further investment by DEFRA in the Rural Community Council network, and the means by which it might be delivered, is currently in progress. Decisions will be taken as soon as possible, in the context of DEFRA's current business planning round.

Vaccines: Pirbright Laboratory

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects to permit Merial to recommence research into bluetongue vaccines at Pirbright. [160627]

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects Merial to start manufacturing the BTV-8 vaccine at Pirbright; and if he will make a statement. [161258]

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the manufacture of foot and mouth virus to recommence at Pirbright; and what conditions will be placed on that manufacture. [161260]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* We have not prevented Merial from conducting research into a bluetongue vaccine as its Pirbright site is primarily a production, rather than research, facility. Merial conducts the majority of its research elsewhere.

The Merial facility at Pirbright has been unable to carry out work with live virus since 4 August when it

became evident that Pirbright was a potential source of the recent outbreak of foot and mouth disease (FMD). Merial voluntarily agreed to suspend the use of live virus at that facility because of the large volumes involved in vaccine production. This arrangement was subsequently formalised through an amendment to their licence under the Specified Animal Pathogens Order (SAPO) 1998.

The suspension has meant that Merial has temporarily been unable to produce vaccine at Pirbright, although we have recently permitted it to use small quantities of viruses for quality control and vaccine tests following further SAPO inspections.

Detailed inspections are urgently being completed at the site and, provided these are fully satisfactory, and that the new heat treatment system is operating satisfactorily, we hope to be able to permit the use of large amounts of live virus within the next few weeks. This would enable Merial to re-commence vaccine production, but only under strict controls.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education: Basic Skills

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1462-63W, on adult education: basic skills, what criteria were used to determine whether a learner was someone who could contribute towards the Skills for Life target in the figures provided. [161242]

Bill Rammell: Skills for Life has been a successful strategy for improving adult literacy and numeracy skills since its launch in 2001. Over 4.7 million people have participated in learning programmes and have taken up over 10.5 million learning opportunities.

The figures provided in the answer of 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1462-63W, show the number of people who could have contributed towards the Skills for Life target between 2001 and July 2006. Learners who could have counted towards the target were those who were aged 16 and over, were eligible for support from LSC in their learning and who were enrolled on programmes leading to an approved Skills for Life qualification. Skills for Life qualifications include English and Maths GCSEs, key skills in communications and application of number and approved adult basic skills qualifications at levels 1 and 2 and entry level 3.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1462-3W, on adult education: basic skills, how many adults aged 25 and over and funded through further education or University for Life were enrolled on programmes which had a weighting for Skills for Life in *(a)* 2003-04, *(b)* 2004-05 and *(c)* 2005-06; how many learners enrolled through employment and training providers or Train to Gain are on programmes that receive such a weighting; and whether these learners are additional to the number of learners given in the answer. [161243]

Bill Rammell: Figures for adults funded by the Learning and Skills Council under the Skills for Life programme can be derived from the individualised learner record. The number of learners aged 25 and over and enrolled on programmes in either FE or with University for Industry for each of the three years is as follows:

	Adults aged 25+ (Thousand)
2003/04	148.5
2004/05	185.1
2005/06	223.2

All of these learners were working towards Skills for Life learning aims and their achievements had the potential to contribute to the Skills for Life public service agreement target. However, Skills for Life involves a number of funding streams, some of which provide an additional weighting for those programmes deemed most accessible to the most disadvantaged learners, but not all. It is not possible to determine from LSC ILR data how many of these learners are workplace learners.

Train to Gain was rolled out gradually from April 2006. Therefore, there are no data available for the years specified for Skills for Life achievements within Train to Gain. However, 28,660 took up Skills for Life learning opportunities through the employer training pilots that pre-dated Train to Gain from September 2002 until August 2005. No further data are available beyond this date at present. No Skills for Life weighting applies to Skills for Life learning within either ETPs or Train to Gain, but all achievements have the potential to count towards the target.

Cambridge-MIT Institute

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) if he will make available annual reports of the Cambridge-MIT Institute for each year since its inception in 2000; [155023]

(2) how the Cambridge-MIT Institute has performed against each of its performance targets set by Government for each year since its inception in 2000. [155024]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* The annual returns to Companies house for the Cambridge-MIT Institute Limited are already in the public domain. The Cambridge-MIT Institute has published an annual review for the year 2004-05. The final report on the Cambridge-MIT Institute will be published shortly. There are no annual performance targets set by Government for the Cambridge-MIT Institute.

Departmental Responsibilities

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on what date the transfer of functions order detailing the changes in his Department was laid before Parliament for approval. [157721]

Bill Rammell: No transfer of functions order has yet been made relating to the machinery of Government changes affecting this Department in June 2007.

Departments: Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what guidance his Department follows on the maximum time taken to respond to hon. Members' correspondence; and what performance against that target was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [158592]

Bill Rammell: The DIUS complies with Cabinet Office guidelines for the maximum time for responding to correspondence.

The DIUS will publish statistics as part of the Cabinet Office's annual report on Departments' and agencies performance on handling Members and peers correspondence. This includes the target set by each Department to reply to hon. Members, the number of letters received and the percentage of replies within target.

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on how many occasions he has visited each region in an official capacity since appointment. [158921]

Mr. Denham: Since the creation of the Department in June 2007, I have visited the following regions in an official capacity: east midlands once; the north-east once; the north-west once; the south once; the south-west once; London five times and Yorkshire and Humber three times.

All ministerial travel is undertaken in accordance with the ministerial code.

Departments: Public Bodies

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will list his Department's and its predecessors' *(a)* executive agencies, *(b)* executive non-departmental public bodies, *(c)* advisory NDPBs, *(d)* tribunal NDPBs, *(e)* trading funds and *(f)* public corporations in each financial year since 2005-06. [156625]

Bill Rammell: The Department's bodies are listed as follows:

		Department's bodies
(a)	Executive Agencies	National Weights and Measures Laboratory
		Intellectual Property Office (formerly Patent Office)
(b)	Executive NDPBs	British Hallmarking Council (part of NWML)
		Design Council
		Technology Strategy Board
		National Endowment for Science, Technology and the Arts
		Research Councils:
		Arts and Humanities Research Council
		Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council
		Economic and Social Research Council
		Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council
		Medical Research Council
		Natural Environment Research Council
		Science and Technology Facilities Council formed by the merger between Council for the Central Laboratory of the Research Councils and Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council on 1 April 2007
		Construction Industry Training Board
		Engineering Construction Industry Training Board
		Higher Education Funding Council for England
		Investors in People UK
		Learning and Skills Council
		Office for Fair Access
		Quality Improvement Agency for Lifelong Learning
		Sector Skills Development Agency
		Student Loans Company Ltd
		UK Commission for Employment and Skills
(c)	Advisory NDPBs	Council for Science and Technology
		Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property
(d)	Tribunal NDPs	Copyright Tribunal (part of Patent Office)
		Insolvency Practitioners Tribunal

My Department has no *(e)* trading funds or *(f)* public corporations.

The public bodies for which the predecessor Departments were responsible in 2005-06 onwards are listed in public bodies at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/other/agencies/public_bodies/index.asp

and on departmental websites. The former Department for Education and Skills' annual report lists public bodies at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/aboutus/reports/pdfs/deptreport2007.pdf

Departments: Recruitment

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to allow contractors employed by his Department to apply for internal job vacancies advertised within his Department; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [152988]

Mr. Lammy: The Department has no plans to allow contractors to apply for internal job vacancies advertised. Permanent members of staff only are eligible to apply for internal job vacancies. Contractors

are not employees of the Department. If we are unable to fill a post internally, we may advertise the vacancy externally. In this instance, the principles of the civil service commissioners recruitment code would be applied. The code is mandatory and must be followed when any post if opened up to competition from outside the civil service. The fundamental principle is that appointments must be made on merit on the basis of fair and open competition.

The Department has received no representations on this issue.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people have been appointed to his Department outside civil service grades in the last 30 days. [153240]

Mr. Lammy: The information requested is not held centrally and can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

My Department does publish information annually on appointments to the public bodies for which it is responsible. Data for 2006-07 were published in the DfES annual report at:

www.dfes.gov.uk/aboutus/reports

Departments: Retirement

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by his Department applied to continue to work beyond state retirement age in the latest year or part thereof for which figures are available; and how many of those applications were successful. [161290]

Mr. Lammy: The Department has no set retirement age for the majority of staff. A retirement age of 65 has been adopted by central Government for the senior civil service but members of the SCS can request to work beyond that age.

The Department has not received any requests from SCS members to work beyond 65 years of age.

Departments: Tribunals

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent by his Department on industrial tribunals in the last 12 months. [153233]

Mr. Lammy: In the 2006-07 financial year my Department spent £46,691 on legal fees in defending employment tribunal cases.

Education: Elderly

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to increase the number of older people in formal learning or educational programmes. [160825]

Mr. Lammy: We recognise the invaluable contribution that older people can and do make to the economic and social wellbeing of this country. We are committed to ensuring that learning serves the needs of the whole community, including older people both within and outside the work force. Our strategy for world class skills and our reforms of wider adult learning are designed to ensure that everyone, whatever their age or background, has the opportunity to improve their skills, prospects and quality of life.

Older people will continue to benefit from a wide range of publicly-funded learning opportunities. Many will be able to take advantage of access to literacy and numeracy courses free of charge, as well as free tuition to a first full level 2 qualification. Older people in the work force will benefit from our work with employers to upskill or reskill in line with the changing needs of the economy. Older people will also benefit from our commitment to safeguard the funding of learning for personal and community development at £210 million through to 2010-11.

Our wider policies aim to encourage older people, especially the disadvantaged and those in hard-to-reach groups, to take up learning through a variety of other learning opportunities, including: unlocking the potential of libraries, museums and galleries as places of learning for older people in partnership with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport; helping them to access information and communications technology through UK Online; working with the Home Office and other partners to encourage older people to use their skills and learn new skills as peer mentors and volunteers; and improving guidance and publicity materials for older people from minority ethnic groups.

Higher Education: Applications

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many applications for undergraduate university courses were made by students from each London constituency in each year since 2005-06. [159011]

Bill Rammell: The information is not held by my Department. The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service collects information on applicants to full-time undergraduate courses at UK higher education institutions but they do not produce figures on the number of applicants by parliamentary constituency.

The latest figures which were published by UCAS on 17 October showed that, compared to 2006, applicants from England who had been accepted for entry in 2007 had risen by 6.4 per cent. to 306,000, the highest ever.

Laboratories: Security

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent on the security of *(a)* public and *(b)* private institutions studying pathogens that act on (i) humans and (ii) animals in each of the last five years in 2006 prices. [158994]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

This information is not collected centrally by Government. The Government do not provide specific funding to research establishments in order that they

comply with proscribed biological security standards. If an organisation cannot meet the standard, licenses are either not supplied or are revoked. Legislation covering the security of pathogens and toxins is captured within the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001.

Learndirect

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many new learners enrolled in learndirect centres in each of the last three years; and how many centres are enrolling new learners; [161230]

(2) how many qualifications were obtained by learndirect learners in each of the last three years, broken down by level of qualification; and how many of them were *(a)* IT qualifications and *(b)* in other areas of content. [161231]

Mr. Lammy: The number of learners, new in-year to Ufi, in England, Wales and Northern Ireland in the past three years is 524,000 in 2004-05; 367,000 in 2005-06; and 249,000 in 2006-07. Over the same period, the number of learndirect centres enrolling new learners has been 1,587 in 2004-05 and 1,152 in 1,036 in 2006-07.

The reductions in Ufi's learner numbers are part of our strategy to offer longer courses related to our national targets. We now focus funding on the courses where it can make the most difference rather than shorter courses which provide less benefit. Ufi has moved towards a significantly greater number of learners on priority courses. The number of learners gaining their first Skills for Life test passes has doubled over the past three years and those learners gaining their first NVQ qualification has risen from zero to over 3,500 in the same period.

The number of qualifications obtained by learndirect learners is shown in the table as follows.

Qualification	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
1st Skills for Life test			
Level 1	18,837	38,057	33,588
Level 2	10,707	19,007	24,617
Total Skills for Life	29,544	57,064	58,205
1st NVQ Qualification			
IT Qualification	0	0	1,001
Non-IT Qualification	0	0	2,573
Total 1st NVQ Qualification	0	0	3,574
Total IT Qualifications	0	0	1,001
Total Non-IT Qualifications:	29,544	57,064	60,778
Total Qualifications	29,544	57,064	61,779
Total Level 1 Qualifications	18,837	38,057	33,588
Total Level 2 Qualifications	10,707	19,007	28,191

Pirbright Laboratory: Repairs and Maintenance

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the reasons were for the time taken to provide funds for repair work to the drainage system at the Pirbright laboratory facility; and if he will make a statement. [159534]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for East Surrey (Mr. Ainsworth) on 1 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 2346W.

Students: Loans

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people have completed repayment of student loans in each year since their introduction. [155909]

Bill Rammell: The available data are given in the following table.

Number of borrowers with student loans repaid in full—financial year in which loan fully repaid

Financial year	*Borrowers with loans fully repaid (Thousand)*[1]
2000-01[2]	45.0
2001-02[2]	56.0
2002-03[2]	67.9
2003-04[2]	77.9
2004-05[2]	83.6
2005-06[3]	81.6
2006-07[3,4]	72.3

[1] Borrowers who have paid at least one loan account in full in the financial year. This includes accounts with small balance write-offs of £5 or less and accounts closed under the Repayment of Teacher Loans scheme.
[2] Data up to 2004-05 are on a UK basis, separate England figures were not available for those years.
[3] Data from 2005-06 cover English domiciled borrowers.
[4] 2006-07 data are provisional.
Note:
Consistent data are not available before 2000-01.

Training: Doctors

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the average *(a)* training and *(b)* student support costs were to train (i) a doctor on a conventional undergraduate training scheme over six years and (ii) a doctor on a fast-track postgraduate training scheme over four years in the latest period for which figures are available; and from which budgets the funding was drawn. [156986]

Bill Rammell: In the period between entry to medical school and full registration, it is estimated that training a doctor costs between £225,000 and £275,000. Doctors generally continue training after full registration. As the duration and nature of post-registration training varies greatly and as service and training costs are closely related, it is not possible to provide a meaningful estimate of the total cost of training.

Ufi: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the *(a)* budgetary allocations and *(b)* outturn was for University for Industry (including learndirect) in (i) 2004-05, (ii) 2005-06 and (iii) 2006-07. [161246]

Mr. Lammy: Figures or the planned expenditure and outturn figures for Ufi (including learndirect) for 2004-05 onwards are:

	Planned expenditure	*£ million* *Outturn*
2004-05	n/a	182
2005-06	201	201
2006-07	176	171

n/a = not available

Vocational Education

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking together with *(a)* Jobcentre Plus and *(b)* the Department of Work and Pensions to improve coordination of education and training programmes in the post-16 sector. [161019]

Mr. Lammy: The Department and the Learning and Skills Council are working closely with the Department of Work and Pensions and Jobcentre Plus to implement the proposals outlined in the document entitled "World Class Skills: Implementing the Leitch Review of Skills in England" and the Green Paper entitled "In Work, better off", both published in July this year.

There is a joint commitment to provide services to help low skilled people and those disadvantaged in the labour market into sustainable employment and progression in work and in skills. We will give greater ownership and choice to individuals over their training through skills accounts backed up by a new universal adult careers service promoting personal advancement. Jobcentre Plus has a pivotal role in ensuring its customers can access skills training both before and during employment. The LSC is ensuring that its budget is progressively spent on more responsive and flexible training tailored to the needs of the individual and local job opportunities. The LSC and Jobcentre Plus have had joint plans in place since 2005 across England that are reviewed regularly.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Care Proceedings

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether any damages have been paid by local authorities to parents in care proceedings because of poor service delivery in the last 12 months. [154000]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is not held centrally.

Child Minding: Qualifications

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of early years staff qualified to level 3 are registered childminders; [159451]

(2) how many and what proportion of registered childminders *(a)* had no qualifications, *(b)* were qualified to level 1 or 2, *(c)* were qualified to level 3 and *(d)* were qualified to level 4 or above in each year since 1997. [159452]

Beverley Hughes: Information is not available in the requested format.

Ofsted does not hold details about the qualifications held by registered child minders. Under the "National standards for under 8s day care and childminding", child care qualifications are not a requirement for persons wishing to apply to act as a child minder. All applicants must complete a registration course approved by the local authority within six months of registration. Ofsted monitors child minders to make sure they have attended such a course.

Ofsted have produced figures on the numbers of registered child care providers and places on a quarterly basis from March 2003. Their latest figures were published in their report "Registered Childcare Providers and Places, June 2007", which is available on their website,

www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications.

The Department is committed to ensuring a greater proportion of the work force is qualified to levels 2 and 3 and to encourage continued professional development at all levels. Over the period 2006-08, the Department is funding early years workforce development through the transformation fund. Local authorities can use the fund to boost training at levels 3, 4 and 5 for the work force, including registered child minders, working in the PVI sector.

Local authorities have also been allocated significant funding from the comprehensive spending review (CSR) period to support work force development across the sector, with a clear focus on achieving level 3 qualifications.

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service: Vacancies

Julie Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many posts have been vacant in the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service for more than three months; [153997]

(2) what the average number of reports prepared by each caseworker in *(a)* public and *(b)* private law was in CAFCASS in each of the last five years; [153998]

(3) whether there has been an effect on the timing of preparation of child protection cases arising from staff *(a)* turnover and *(b)* shortages in CAFCASS in the 2006-07 financial year. [153999]

Kevin Brennan: These are matters for CAFCASS. Anthony Douglas, the chief executive, will write to my hon. Friend with this information and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Departments: Civil Proceedings

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many civil law suits have been brought against his Department based either wholly or partially on the grounds provided by the Human Rights Act 1998; how many were settled out of court, before a court judgment was delivered; and how much such settlements cost the public purse since 1998. [160705]

Kevin Brennan: The Department does not collect central records of cases brought against it in which grounds contained in the Human Rights Act 1998 have been relied and so the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Correspondence

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department follows on the maximum time taken to respond to hon. Members' correspondence; and what performance against that target was in the most recent period for which figures are available. [158601]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office publishes guidance for Departments on "Handling Correspondence from Members of Parliament, Members of the House of Lords, MEPs, and Members of Devolved Assemblies". Copies are available in the Libraries of the House and it is also available on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetOffice.gov.uk/upload/assets/www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/propriety_and_ethics/correspondence.pdf

The Cabinet Office also publishes on an annual basis, a report on Departments' and agencies' performance on handling Members' and Peers' correspondence. This includes the target set by each Department to reply to hon. Members, the number of letters received and the percentage of replies within target. The last report for 2006 was published by the then Minister for the Cabinet Office (Hilary Armstrong) on 28 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 101-04WS.

Departments: Departmental Reorganisation

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what date the transfer of functions order detailing the changes in his Department was laid before Parliament for approval. [157724]

Kevin Brennan: No transfer of functions order has yet been made relating to the machinery of Government changes affecting this Department in June 2007.

Departments: General Elections

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what contingency preparations his Department made for the possibility of a general election in autumn 2007; and what the costs were of those preparations. [156989]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to him by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 823W.

Departments: ICT

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 18 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1296-7W, on Departments: ICT, what estimate he has made of the cost of extracting the requested data; and what assessment he has made of the merits of extracting the data. [160634]

Kevin Brennan: The cost of extracting the requested data was estimated to exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of 700. No assessment was made of the benefits of extracting the data.

Departments: Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many people were employed by his Department and its predecessor on 1 January in each of the last five years; and how many of these staff were *(a)* permanent employees, *(b)* temporary staff and *(c)* contractors. [158331]

Kevin Brennan: The number of people employed by the Department over the last five years are:

	(a) Permanent staff	*(b) Temporary staff*
2007	4,040	10
2006	4,250	20
2005	4,750	60
2004	5,360	90
2003	5,220	120

Information on contractors, in the format requested, can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by his Department are above state retirement age. [158947]

Kevin Brennan: The Department currently employs a total of 40 staff—1.4 per cent.—above state retirement age. The Department is not responsible for any executive agency.

Non-departmental public bodies are responsible for data regarding their employees and the information requested is not held centrally by the Department.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the name is of each special adviser in his Department. [153265]

Kevin Brennan: The annual list of special adviser names will be published shortly.

Departments: Policy

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what policy changes his Department has implemented since 27 June 2007. [159284]

Kevin Brennan: The Department has implemented a number of new and changed policies since 27 June 2007. Ministers have kept Parliament fully informed of these changes. For example, the following have been announced:

a nationwide consultation with teachers, children's professionals, universities, colleges and the voluntary sector, parents, and children and young people themselves to draw up a children's plan for our country;

details of the first five new diplomas and plans for additional Diplomas in Science, Languages and the humanities to increase the options for 14 to 19-year-olds;

a new National Council for Educational Excellence to drive forward the Government's long term aspirations for children and young people's education;

a review of the teaching of maths to be led by Sir Peter Williams, chancellor of Leicester university and chair of the advisory committee on maths education;

a major consultation on children and young people's safety where we are seeking views from parents, children and young people, our partners and the children's workforce;

more rigorous inspection of pupil behaviour with Ofsted to issue strong new guidance to inspectors which will be clear that behaviour by pupils that has a negative impact on learning is unacceptable;

£1.9 billion of capital investment allocations to local authorities to raise standards with state-of-the-art classroom, arts, sports and ICT facilities over the next three years;

£150 million assessment for learning training over the next three years to help teachers better track their pupils' progress and personalise their learning to stretch gifted children and help underachieving children catch-up;

a £265 million extended schools subsidy over the next three years to ensure that children from disadvantaged backgrounds benefit from extra out-of-hours tuition and after-school clubs in sport, music and drama.

Departments: Press

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when his *(a)* Ministers, *(b)* officials and *(c)* special advisers briefed journalists at the *Financial Times* on his statement on 10 July 2007; and if he will make a statement. [154707]

Kevin Brennan: The Department made copies of my parliamentary statement available and briefed media, including the *Financial Times*, after I delivered my statement to the House.

Departments: Secondment

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many staff are seconded to his Department from outside Government; from which outside body each has been seconded; and what the length is of each secondment. [157764]

Kevin Brennan: A total of 81 staff are seconded to my Department from a range of organisations listed as follows. The secondments are normally for a period of up to two years.

Organisation	*Number of secondees*
London Borough of Ealing	1
NHS Business Services Authority	1
Northamptonshire County Council	2
Commission for Social Care Inspection	5
Cheshire County Council	1
Leicestershire County Council	1
London Borough Hammersmith and Fulham	1
City of Sunderland Children's Services	1
Westminster City Council	1
East Sussex County Council	1
Wokingham District Council	1
CSWP, Connexions Coventry and Warwickshire	1
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council	1
Centre for British Teachers	1
Bath and North East Somerset Council	1
Southend on Sea County Council	1
Haringey Council	1
Buckinghamshire CC	1
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council	1
Lancashire County Council	3
Lincolnshire South West PCT	1
Wiltshire County Council	1
London Borough of Enfield	1
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council	1
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Trust	1
Education Leeds	2
East of England Health Authority	1
South West Peninsula Strategic Health Authority	1
Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Trust	1
Devon County Council	1
Sefton MBC	1
Cornwall CC	1
Shropshire and Staffordshire Strategic Health Authority	1
North Yorkshire County Council	1
Hertfordshire County Council	2
Cambridgeshire County Council	1
Kingston Upon Hull City Council	1
Swindon Borough Council	1
BBC	1
Edexcel	1
Leeds Metropolitan University	1
Nottinghamshire County Council	2
Service Birmingham	1
Essex County Council	1
Farming and Countryside Education(FACE)	1
Highcliffe School	1
Garforth Community College	1
Fullbrook School	1
Diocese of Bath and Wells	1
Oxfordshire County Council	1
University of Wolverhampton	1
Norfolk County Council	1
Dorset County Council	2
CFBT	1
Manchester City Council	1
Wootton Bassett School	1

Organisation	*Number of secondees*
Buckinghamshire LEA	1
Slough Borough Council	1
Crown Hills Community College	1
Building Research Establishment	1
Rotherham LEA	1
Greig City Academy	1
Doncaster MBC	1
Worcestershire County Council	1
The King John School	1
St. Mary's Catholic High School	1
Fred Longworth High School	1
Business in the Community	1
Haybridge High School and Sixth Form	1
British High Commission NZ	1

Educational Visits

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many school trips were made by *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools in each (i) Government region and (ii) local education authority in each of the last 10 years; [153835]

(2) how many school trips abroad were made by schools in each *(a)* Government region and *(b)* local education authority in each of the last 10 years; [153836]

(3) what the average cost of insurance for school trips was in each year since 1997. [153837]

Kevin Brennan: Information is not collected centrally on school trips made by primary and secondary schools either in the UK or abroad. Information on insurance costs is also not held centrally.

Headteachers: Stockport

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of headteachers in Stockport metropolitan borough are within *(a)* one year, *(b)* two years, *(c)* three years, *(d)* five years and *(e)* 10 years of standard pension age. [160691]

Jim Knight: The normal pension age (NPA) of teachers who entered service before 1 January 2007 is 60. Entrants to the profession from that date have a NPA of 65. NPA is the age at which members of the teachers' pension scheme can retire without any actuarial reduction to their pension benefits.

The following table provides the percentage of full-time head teachers in service in the maintained schools sector in England within 1 year, 2 years, 3 years, 5 years and 10 years of the NPA 60, in March 2006, the latest information available.

Teacher numbers and percentage[1] of full-time head teachers in service in maintained sector schools[2] in Stockport[3] and England, by number of years before the normal pension age (age 60), March 2006

		Number/percentage
	Stockport[3]	*England*
Number		
Teachers	130	22,510
Percentage		
Less than		
1	4	3
2	10	7
3	14	12
5	28	25
10	56	58

[1] Percentages are cumulative.
[2] Excludes academies.
[3] Local authority information is not normally reported from the database of teacher records due to data quality concerns but data for Stockport is sufficiently complete.

Notes:
1. Reforms of the teachers' pension scheme that were introduced in January 2007 and which include a NPA of 65 for new entrants included new provisions that are specifically aimed at encouraging teachers to extend their working lives. These new provisions will provide a real and attractive alternative to teachers' traditional approach to retirement.
2. Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
Database of teacher records (age proportions) and 618g (overall teacher numbers)

Pupil Exclusions

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to following his predecessor's Department's research on school exclusions *(a)* to give schools clear targets to lower levels of exclusions, *(b)* to increase and expand mentoring schemes, *(c)* to help with the transition from primary to secondary school, *(d)* to provide support for teachers when dealing with difficult pupils and *(e)* to encourage early intervention with difficult pupils. [159717]

Kevin Brennan: We back a head teacher's decision to exclude a pupil from school where their bad behaviour warrants it. We will not give schools targets for reducing exclusions. Rather, our aim is to ensure that misbehaviour is tackled early so as to reduce the need for exclusion. We have taken steps to help schools improve the management of behaviour in the classroom.

We are also carrying out a wide ranging programme of work to reduce disproportionate exclusions among black Caribbean and mixed white/black Caribbean pupils following the recommendations in last December's report "Getting it. Getting it Right".

Behaviour management is a central part of teacher training. Current standards for qualified teacher status require teachers to know a range of strategies for promoting good behaviour, setting high expectations for pupils' behaviour and establishing a clear framework for classroom discipline. Our social and emotional aspects of learning curriculum programme tackles the causes of bad behaviour and bullying by helping children develop self-control and good relationships.

In line with the new Department's wider responsibilities, we are increasingly emphasising the need for early intervention with young people across a range of issues. From September 2007 secondary schools have been working in partnership to improve

behaviour and tackle persistent absence with a strong emphasis on early intervention, and managing the transition from primary to secondary school, to reduce the need for exclusion.

Pupils: Intimidation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 4 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1092-94W on pupils: intimidation, if he will list all other prompts the national strategies use to assess whether a school needs additional support with its anti-bullying work; and what percentage of *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools are tackling bullying effectively, according to each prompt. [159838]

Kevin Brennan: Further to the answer given to question 147174 on 4 July, the other prompts which the national strategies used during 2006-07 to assess whether a school needed additional support with its anti-bullying work were: *(a)* strategies to improve attendance; *(b)* the effectiveness of leadership and management; and *(c)* schools' effective use of the range of local authority (LA) support services to reduce low level disruption. Any of those prompts may have triggered a discussion between the LA behaviour and attendance consultant, national strategies regional adviser and/or the school about bullying and appropriate follow-up taken. But only the specific anti-bullying prompt referred to in the answer given on 4 July triggered the return of data to the Department relating to bullying.

However, two additional prompts specifically relating to bullying were introduced from autumn 2007. These were:

School impact prompt: Leadership and management of schools and settings

Schools are able to demonstrate a rigorous process that has resulted in the development of an anti-bullying policy that includes all types of bullying, and informs effective practice based on the DCSF anti-bullying guidance and the principles of the DCSF "Bullying—A Charter for Action". This is supported by evidence from Ofsted reports, pupil surveys, school self evaluation and other evidence that reports schools have a positive climate for learning where all pupils feel safe and secure.

LA impact prompt: Strategic leadership and management of LAs

The LA supports and challenges schools effectively to ensure a reduction in incidents of bullying. This includes:

- opportunities to share effective practice;
- guidance for policy development, recording and monitoring;
- support to all schools in following the good practice advice in the DCSF anti-bullying guidance and the principles of the DCSF "Bullying—A Charter for Action" as a basis for their anti-bullying policies and practice.

Data will be available on both of the above prompts from November 2007.

Teachers: Training

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the *(a)* target and *(b)* outturn numbers of recruits to initial teacher training in each secondary school subject were in each year since 2001-02; what the target is for 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [153945]

Kevin Brennan: Data on targets set for recruitment to initial teacher training in each secondary subject for each academic year between 2001-02 and 2007-08 were published in January 2007 in the school workforce in England (including pupil: teacher ratios and pupil: adult ratios), January 2006 (revised) volume. These figures are available from the following link:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000681/index.shtml

The table of interest is table A3 within '(Additional tables giving information on initial teacher training. (added January 2007))'

Recruitment figures to ITT courses in each secondary school subject each academic year between 2001/02 and 2006/07 can also be found in this volume. The table of interest is table A1 within '(Additional tables giving information on initial teacher training. (added January 2007))'

JUSTICE

Bullwood Hall Prison: Foreigners

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) on what date the decision was taken to use HMP Bullwood Hall and HMP Canterbury primarily for detention of foreign national prisoners; [161819]

(2) on what date the decision was taken to use HMP Bullwood Hall and HMP Canterbury primarily for detention of foreign national prisoners. [161821]

Mr. Hanson: The decision was taken in May 2006 (Canterbury) and June 2006 (Bullwood Hall). These prisons are used to hold foreign national prisoners who are being considered by the Borders and Immigration Agency for removal from the United Kingdom, in order to streamline caseworking procedures between BIA and the prison service.

Children: Protection

Mr. Hood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he next expects to meet his counterparts in the Scottish Executive to discuss cross-border co-operation on the protection of children from sex offenders; and if he will make a statement. [161844]

Maria Eagle: Consultation is currently taking place between officials in the Ministry of Justice and the Scottish Executive. The revised multi-agency public protection arrangements guidance is scheduled for distribution to probation areas in England and Wales on 31 October 2007. This guidance includes material on how effectively to manage the transfer of cross-border cases. Further consultation at official level is planned, after which advice will be provided to Ministers on strengthening cross-border co-operation.

Departments: Assets

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what departmental assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; and what the expected revenue from each such sale is; [160349]

(2) whether any of his Department's special advisers have declared a conflict of interest. [160786]

Maria Eagle: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departments: Civil Proceedings

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many civil law suits have been brought against his Department based either wholly or partially on grounds provided by the Human Rights Act 1998; how many were settled out of court, before a court judgment was delivered; and how much such settlements cost the public purse since 1998. [160695]

Mr. Wills: The information requested is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The Human Rights Act 1998 allows the rights contained in the European Convention on Human Rights to be argued in any case before any court or tribunal.

Departments: Disabled

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which buildings occupied by his Department *(a)* are and *(b)* are not fully accessible to disabled people; and if he will make a statement. [161166]

Maria Eagle: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departments: Ministerial Red Boxes

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 19 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 570W, on Departments: ministerial red boxes, on what basis he decided that the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost. [159573]

Maria Eagle: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departments: Pay

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what criteria were used for determining pay hotspots for his Department's employees. [159706]

Bridget Prentice: A new pay system has recently been introduced for employees in the former Department for Constitutional Affairs now employed in the Ministry of Justice, with five regional pay ranges. Courts and offices were allocated to the Hotspots pay ranges following economic research and analysis of earnings and salary survey data, analysis of internal departmental data on key retention indicators such as turnover rates, as well as consultation with local senior managers. This was the case with all of the pay ranges introduced as part of the new pay arrangements. There will be an annual review of the operation of the pay system, including the criteria used to allocate offices to pay ranges.

Departments: Policy

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what policy changes his Department has implemented since 27 June 2007. [159287]

Maria Eagle: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what dates his Department breached its *(a)* resource, *(b)* near-cash, *(c)* administration and *(d)* capital budgets; what the total value of each breach was; and what the reason was for each breach. [160312]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice was created on 9 May 2007 through the merging of the Department for Constitutional Affairs and part of the Home Office (the National Offender Management Service and the Office for Criminal Justice Reform). As a result of the machinery of government change, there are no formal historic budgets for resource DEL, administration and capital DEL against which to compare outturn.

Details for the Ex-DCA and ex-HO Departments can be found in the relevant HM Treasury provisional expenditure outturn publications:

PEOWP 2001-02 (Cm 5574)
PEOWP 2002-03 (Cm 5884)
PEOWP 2003-04 (Cm 6293)
PEOWP 2004-05 (Cm 6639)
PEOWP 2005-06 (Cm 6883)
PEOWP 2006-07 (Cm 7156)

These are available in the Libraries of the House.

PEOWP reports provisional outturn figures for the year against the final HM Treasury control totals on the basis of the budgeting regime that applied in-year. Spending is reported for Departments as they were constituted at the end of the relevant year.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in which financial years since 2001 his Department's outturn for its capital budget at the end of the year was less than planned at the beginning of the year; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* reason for the underspend was in each case. [160331]

Maria Eagle: The National Audit Office measures spending performance against plans by comparing outturns against final provision following supplementary estimates—rather than against plans at the start of the year—as plans can change during the year for a number of reasons, such as machinery of government and classification changes. The definitive figures for final provision and provisional outturn are published each year in the "Public Expenditure Outturns White Paper".

Changes to plans arising in-year are published in "Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses", as are differences between provisional and final outturns.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what departmental budget items have been reclassified, under consolidated budgeting guidance, following comprehensive spending review 2007 decisions; and what the *(a)* former and *(b)* new (i) classification and (ii) sum budgeted is in each case. [160417]

Maria Eagle: Following the creation of the Ministry of Justice, the initial 2007-08 administration baseline was £720 million. In keeping with the sentiment expressed in the Treasury budgeting guidance that all items directly associated with direct frontline delivery of a service are classified as programme costs, analysis was conducted and resulted in a reclassification of £261 million of costs.

			£ million
	Previous administration budget	*HMT agreed reclassification*	*Revised CSR administration budget*
Ministry of Justice Group[1] total	720	261	459

[1] The Ministry of Justice Group includes Northern Ireland Court Service, The National Archives, Scotland Office, Wales Office and the Electoral Commission.

The business areas affected by reclassification of expenditure from administration to programme costs were e-Delivery group, HMCS, Tribunals Service, Public Guardianship Office and Official Solicitor and Public Trustee.

Details of all classification changes in resource and capital budgets made since publication of the consolidated budgeting guidance 2007 will be published after Budget 2008 in chapter 3 of "Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses 2008".

Departments: Retirement

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by his Department applied to continue to work beyond state retirement age in the latest year or part thereof for which figures are available; and how many of those applications were successful. [161284]

Maria Eagle: The Ministry of Justice has delegated employment terms and conditions under the Civil Service (Management Functions) Act 1992, and as a consequence, does not have a retirement age policy. Applications to work past the state retirement age are dealt with at a local business level and considered on an individual basis. As a consequence, information on the number of applications and the number of successful applications for working beyond state retirement age is not held centrally and to collate this would incur disproportionate costs. However, the numbers of staff (headcount) "actually working" above state retirement age are available as at 30 September 2007 and have been compiled as follows:

(a) The total number of staff above state retirement age, employed by the Ministry of Justice (former Department for Constitutional Affairs) as at 30 September 2007, taken from the Ministry of Justices' internal human resource systems are as follows:

Ministry of Justice head quarters	*Number of staff above 65 (state retirement age)*
Formerly Department for Constitutional Affairs HQ (excl. agencies)	7
OCJR	2
NOMS	3
MOJ HQ Total	10

(b) (i) The total number of staff above state retirement age, employed by the Ministry of Justice Agencies (former DCA and its agencies) as at 30 September 2007, taken from the Ministry of Justices' internal human resource systems are as follows:

Ministry of Justices' Agencies	*Number of staff above 65 (state retirement age)*
HM Courts Service	296
Public Guardianship Office	3
Tribunals Service	20
Scotland Office (excl. Office of Advocate General)	1
Wales Office	2
HMPS	127
MOJ Agencies' Total	449

(b) (ii) The information requested is not available for non-departmental public bodies as the data is not held centrally and to collate this information would incur disproportionate costs.

Deportation: Appeals

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners successfully appealed against deportation in each of the last five years; and how many have so appealed in 2007-08. [161584]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Deportation: Judicial Review

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons had their removal delayed by applications for judicial review in each of the last three years; and what proportion of cases before the Appeal Court they comprised. [161582]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Freedom of Information: Compensation

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information he holds on which Government Departments have a policy of making compensation payments to people making requests to them under the

Freedom of Information Act 2000 when the deadlines for providing information set out in that Act are not complied with. [161523]

Mr. Wills: There is no provision in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for compensation payments to be made and the Ministry of Justice has no knowledge or information about Government Departments having a policy to do so.

Information Commissioner: Complaints

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints were made by members of the public to the Information Commissioner in each year for which figures are available; and how many of those complaints resulted in the Information Commissioner issuing an enforcement notice. [161813]

Mr. Wills: The following table shows how many complaints were made by members of the public to the Information Commissioner in each year and how many of those complaints resulted in the Information Commissioner issuing an enforcement notice.

	Data Protection Act		*Freedom of Information*	
	Complaints[1]	*Enforcements*[2]	*Complaints*	*Enforcements*
2000-01	8,875	4	—	—
2001-02	12,479	4	—	—
2002-03	12,001	4	—	—
2003-04	9,994	1	—	—
2004-05	19,460	3	[3]0	0
2005-06	22,059	5	2,713	0
2006-07	23,988	6	2,592	[4]1
Year to date	14,503	9	1,355	0

[1] The Data Protection figures represent all complaints which include requests for the Commissioner to assess the way that information was processed and where advice and assistance is provided. Allegations of breaches of the Telecommunications Regulations (PECR) are not technically requests for assessment but are also included in these figures.
[2] Enforcements under the Data Protection Act are not an automatic consequence of a complaint, and are relatively rare. Other options exercised by the Commissioner include
preliminary enforcement notices and undertakings. A single enforcement notice can relate to hundreds of complaints. This is particularly the case with complaints under PECR.
[3] Given the timescales for compliance and internal reviews, the ICO received its first FoI complaints at the end of the 2004-05 financial year. These were therefore included in the next annual figures.
[4] An enforcement notice under the freedom of Information Act is a legal order the Information Commissioner can make to require a public authority to address its failure to comply with Part I of the Freedom of Information Act. In practice, this is most likely to be used where there is systemic or repeated non-compliance.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects to answer the letter to him dated 19 September from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Mr. A. Daly. [161832]

Mr. Hanson: I apologise for the delay. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Straw) will write to the right hon. Member shortly.

National Identity

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proposals for a national motto have been made to him. [161820]

Mr. Wills: My Department has received a number of suggestions for a national motto and I welcome the interest this debate has generated, in the context of the wider debate about what it means to be British and part of British society. We will shortly be announcing a wide range of measures to take discussion forward on the content and format of a British statement of values and the purposes for which it should be used.

Parole: Foreigners

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many foreign nationals were released from prison on end of custody licence between *(a)* 29 June and 5 July, *(b)* 6 July and 31 July, *(c)* 1 August and 31 August and *(d)* 1 September and 30 September 2007; [161822]

(2) how many foreign nationals were released from prison on end of custody licence *(a)* between 29 June and 5 July, *(b)* 6 July and 31 July, *(c)* 1 August and 31 August and *(d)* 1 September and 30 September 2007. [161818]

Mr. Hanson: Foreign national prisoners who are liable to deportation at the end of their sentence are not eligible for release under the end of custody licence scheme. The following table shows the numbers of foreign national prisoners who did not meet the criteria for deportation and so were released as part of the ECL scheme since the end of June 2007:

FNPs released	
Period	*FNP releases on ECL*
29 June—5 July	102
6 July—31 July	129
1 August—31 August	144
1 September—30 September	127

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Pentonville Prison: Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many disciplinary hearings have been heard at HM prison Pentonville for those staff who were suspended under corruption investigations; what the *(a)* date and *(b)* outcome was of each hearing; how many remain outstanding and for what reasons in each case; and if he will make a statement; [161514]

(2) what measures are in place to ensure that uniformed prison staff do not work excessive hours in carrying out bedwatch duties; and if he will make a statement. [161520]

Mr. Hanson: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Pentonville Prison: Governing Bodies

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many years' experience the previous governing governor of HM prison Pentonville had as a governing governor before taking up the post as governing governor of the establishment; whether this was a managed move; who was responsible for authorising the move; which skills were defined as necessary to fill the role; and if he will make a statement; [161515]

(2) what training in professional standards the previous governing governor of HM prison Pentonville had before taking up post as head of professional standards issues at HM prison service; and if he will make a statement; [161516]

(3) for what reason the previous governor of HM prison Pentonville was transferred to the professional standards unit; whether this was a managed move; who was responsible for authorising the move; what skills were defined by that person as necessary to fill the role; and if he will make a statement. [161565]

Mr. Hanson: Prior to his appointment as governor of Pentonville prison, Mr. Deighton held a previous appointment as governor of Exeter prison from 1 November 1999 until 29 December 2001. He transferred to Pentonville, as governor, following a period as a team leader with HM inspectorate of prisons. His appointment to Pentonville was managed, partly to facilitate his return to operational duties on completion of a three-year tour of duty with the inspectorate. He transferred as head of the professional standards unit earlier this year.

In line with the published policy of HM prison service, all operational senior manager appointments require the approval of the relevant director and the deputy director general of the service as chair of the succession planning committee. This applies both to managed appointments and those filled through selection following an internal advertisement.

It would be inappropriate to discuss the reasons for individual appointments as they frequently take into account personal circumstances or developmental issues as well as any particular individual skills that a person might bring to a post.

There is no training course that would be suitable for an incoming head of PSU. As an operational senior manager Mr. Deighton would have acquired substantial knowledge of matters that have a bearing on the work of the unit. Mr. Deighton's developmental needs will be assessed by his line manager as part of the prison service's performance management arrangements, on an ongoing basis.

Personation

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of identity fraud being carried out as a result of information received via on-line applications for change of title administered by the Land Registry. [157095]

Mr. Wills: Very few applications are currently made online to alter the Land Register for England and Wales. Online applications can only be lodged by accredited professional customers, for example solicitors, banks and other mortgage lenders, using Land Registry's secure online system. Effective audit trails are in place and users of the system must comply with tightly drawn terms and conditions. Land Registry has no evidence, as far as it is aware, that any fraud has been perpetrated by such online application.

The vast majority of applications for alteration of the register, including applications that will give effect to change of ownership, are still lodged in paper form by professional customers who have obligations under Money Laundering Regulations and other professional obligations to check the identity of their clients. Land Registry is aware of frauds that have been perpetrated using applications in paper form. In 2006-07 it paid compensation on 24 claims arising from fraud. In the same year, it dealt with nearly 4 million applications to register transfers for value and mortgages.

Land Registry has identified that perpetration of frauds affecting the register pose a strategic risk and is reviewing the security controls and access restrictions in place for its internal and external online systems. It is also reviewing procedures for dealing with applications lodged in paper form, to see what can be done to strengthen the protection they provide against fraud.

The following safeguards are already in place;

None of the applications that can currently be made online will result in a direct change of ownership of title.

Non-professional conveyancers cannot lodge applications for the alteration of the register online.

Solicitors, banks and mortgage lenders are obliged to check and confirm the identity of clients either by their professional codes of conduct or domestic security controls.

Most applications lodged online are currently subject to Land Registry intervention, i.e. they require manual processing, allowing additional validation by Land Registry's staff.

Very few applications are lodged direct with Land Registry by non-conveyancers.

Land Registry's assessment of fraud

Land Registry is currently assessing what further security controls and access restrictions could be

introduced to reduce the possibility of information being obtained by someone who may use it for a fraudulent purpose.

Land Registry's board have approved an anti-fraud strategy and various initiatives are being undertaken to reduce the likelihood of a registration fraud being successful.

Land Registry is looking at incidents of fraud or attempted fraud both against Land Registry and more generally and is working with the police to assess what additional safeguards may be needed to prevent wrongful registration where fraud has occurred.

Land Registry has checks and processes in place, whether applications are lodged by professional customers or by non-conveyancers to help detect and prevent the registration of fraudulent applications and is working on strengthening those controls.

Land Registry reviews its systems and processes regularly to identify, amongst other things, where system and process changes are necessary.

Land Registry has taken action to raise staff awareness of ID fraud.

Prison Service: Corruption

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) on what date Michael Spurr was interviewed as part of the Tasker investigation; and if he will make a statement; [150961]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 5 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 390W, on the Tasker inquiry, who the previous commissioning authority referred to in the answer was; and if he will make a statement; [150962]

(3) on what date *(a)* Keith Munns and *(b)* Nick Pascoe received a copy of the partial report of the Tasker inquiry; and if he will make a statement; [150963]

(4) on what date Keith Munns was interviewed as part of the Tasker inquiry; on what date he relinquished responsibility as commissioning authority for the inquiry; to whom he relinquished it; and if he will make a statement; [150964]

(5) on what date Nick Pascoe took over the commissioning authority role for the Tasker inquiry; who the commissioning authority was immediately before that; and if he will make a statement; [150965]

(6) who was responsible as commissioning authority for the Tasker inquiry after Keith Munns was interviewed as part of the investigation; and if he will make a statement; [150974]

(7) whether the deputy director general of HM prison service had access to the partial report of the Tasker inquiry prior to *(a)* agreeing to be interviewed and *(b)* being interviewed as part of the investigation; and if he will make a statement; [150975]

(8) who acted as commissioning authority for the Tasker inquiry between the retirement of Keith Munns and the transfer to Nick Pascoe; and if he will make a statement; [150976]

(9) on what date Ron Tasker was informed that *(a)* Keith Munns had ceased to be the commissioning authority for his investigation and *(b)* Nick Pascoe had assumed responsibility; whether a draft of his interim report had been submitted to the commissioning authority previous to either of these dates; to whom the draft of the interim report was submitted and on what date; and if he will make a statement; [150977]

(10) what representations were received by *(a)* Helen Edwards and *(b)* Phil Wheatley on Keith Munns' role as commissioning authority for the Tasker inquiry (i) while area manager for London, (ii) at the point of his retirement and (iii) subsequent to his retirement; and if he will make a statement; [150978]

(11) whether the deputy director general of HM prison service had access to the interim report of the Tasker inquiry before being interviewed as part of the inquiry on 10 May 2007; and if he will make a statement; [150981]

(12) pursuant to the answer of 7 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 2057W, on the Prison Service: public appointments, to whom Keith Munns was reporting when he was supporting the completion of the Tasker inquiry report; whether he was supporting Nick Pascoe or Michael Spurr in the preparation of the interim report of the Tasker inquiry; whether Michael Spurr was acting as the commissioning authority at the time of the appointment of Keith Munns for that role; on what date that appointment took place; and if he will make a statement; [151041]

(13) pursuant to the answer of 2 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1684W, on the Tasker inquiry, what the change in the terms of reference for the Tasker investigation was; and if he will make a statement; [151050]

(14) on what date the deputy director general of HM prison service first asked Nick Pascoe to assume responsibility as commissioning authority for the Tasker inquiry; on what date he became commissioning authority; and if he will make a statement; [151051]

(15) whether the deputy director general of HM prison service has held responsibility as commissioning authority for the Tasker inquiry; and if he will make a statement; [151053]

(16) pursuant to the answers of 31 January 2007, *Official Report*, column 201W, on the Tasker investigation, 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, column1941W, on the Prison Service: disclosure of information and 23 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 980W, on Wandsworth Prison, what the cause is of the delay in the completion of the report of the Tasker inquiry; what estimate he has made of the additional cost incurred as a consequence of these delays; when he expects the Tasker report to be *(a)* completed and *(b)* submitted; and if he will make a statement. [151075]

Maria Eagle: Due to the number and detail of the linked questions it has not been possible to provide a full response. I will write to the hon. Member once I have considered fully.

Substantive answer from Maria Eagle to Henry Bellingham:

Before the recess I wrote to you to say that I would write further in response to your questions numbered 150961-65,150974-78, 150981, 151041, 151050-51, 151053, and 151075.

I should mention from the outset that the Tasker report has now been received and accepted by the area manager for London who will be writing to the relevant individuals in the near future.

In your questions you raised various issues about the commissioning authorities. Although much of this information has been provided before I should make clear that there have only been two commissioning authorities, namely Keith Munns and Nick Pascoe (the former and current area managers for London). There was no gap between the two. Michael Spurr has never been commissioning authority and has still not seen any of the report.

Nick Pascoe became commissioning authority, as you have again already been informed on an unspecified date after 1 February 2007 following a routine line management conversation with Michael Spurr, the DDG. Ron Tasker was informed of the change on 10 May.

I should add that the commissioning authority function is primarily an administrative requirement under prison service orders and that his/her role is to set terms of reference, appoint an investigating officer, ensure adequate resources are allocated and take receipt of the investigation report on conclusion.

The first chapter of the report was submitted to Keith Munns on 9 April and to Nick Pascoe on 16 April. Keith Munns was not involved in the completion of the report, but had been retained to provide support to the commissioning authority because of his knowledge of the issues involved.

Various representations have been made to Helen Edwards and Phil Wheatley about Keith Munns' role as commissioning authority. It is the prison service's view that the role of Keith Munns was entirely appropriate and consistent with policy.

Finally, the report, which as I have said has recently been accepted by Nick Pascoe, was delayed because of the complexity and breadth of the investigation, the number of witnesses requiring interviewing (the last interview taking place on the 14th August 2007), and the amount of correspondence and questions in relation to the investigation that have required responses. The costs of completing the investigation are still being calculated.

Prison Service: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the net cost to his Department was of industrial action by prison officers on 29 August. [155189]

Mr. Hanson: It is at the moment too early to be able to give the net cost of the industrial action by Prison Officers on 29 August as this information is still being collated from across the prison estate.

I will write to the hon. and learned Gentleman as soon as the net cost of the action has been established.

Substantive answer from David Hanson to Edward Garnier:

In September you tabled a question asking to know the net costs to the prison service of the industrial action by prison officers on 29 August 2007. At the time of my reply costs were unknown as they were still being collated across the prison service. I am now writing as promised to give you the information requested.

Costs incurred to the prison service, and other parts of the National Offender Management Service at the time totalled £519,000. In addition to this £146,000 has been spent refurbishing cells damaged by prisoners at HMYOI Lancaster Farms during the industrial action by prison officers. The overall costs totalling £665,000 have been offset by salary reductions for the staff who took part in the industrial action totalling £734,666. The overall net position was therefore was a budget saving of £69,666.

Prison Service: Pay

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the starting salary for prison officers was in May 1997, in 2007-08 prices. [160564]

Mr. Hanson: A prison officer's starting salary in May 1997 was £14,430. In April 2007, the prison officer starting salary reached £17,744, with progression to the pay maximum of £27,261 reached in six years instead of 15 years as in 1997. The current pay round is under way.

Prisoners: Foreigners

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign nationals released from UK prisons were *(a)* handed over to authorities in their country of origin, *(b)* released into the custody of the immigration and borders service, *(c)* deported and *(d)* released and allowed to remain in the United Kingdom in each of the last five years. [161435]

Mr. Byrne: I have been asked to reply.

It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what crimes had been committed by the foreign prisoners *(a)* handed over to authorities in their country of origin, *(b)* released into the custody of the immigration and borders service, *(c)* deported and *(d)* released and allowed to remain in the United Kingdom in each of the last five years. [161436]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the potential effect on levels of radicalisation in prisons of dedicating entire prisons to foreign national prisoners. [161624]

Mr. Hanson: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign prisoners were held at HMP Peterborough in each month since 1 April 2006; and if he will make a statement. [161786]

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners were held in each category D prisons in England and Wales on the last day of each of the last 24 months for which figures are available. [161621]

Mr. Hanson: Due to the volume of data involved, it is not possible to provide the information requested in short time scales, without incurring disproportionate cost.

I will write to both hon. Gentlemen shortly with the information requested.

Prisoners: Suicide

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* British and *(b)* foreign national prisoners committed (i) acts of self-harm and (ii) suicide in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [161618]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The number of United Kingdom nationals who:

(i) were victims of a self-inflicted death[1] in prison is shown in table 1.

(ii) self-harmed in prison custody is shown in table 2.

(b) Foreign national prisoners who:

(i) were victims of a self-inflicted death[1] in prison is shown in table 1.

(ii) self-harmed in prison custody is shown in table 2.

Table 1: self-inflicted deaths[1] in prison custody

Nationality	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Foreign	1	4	7	4	5	9	8	7	6	6
UK	66	78	84	76	68	85	84	88	72	61
Total	67	82	91	80	73	94	92	95	78	67

[1] The Prison Service definition of self-inflicted deaths is broader than the legal definition of suicide and includes all deaths where it appears that a prisoner has acted specifically to take their own life. This inclusive approach is used in part because inquest verdicts are often not available for some years after a death (some 20 per cent. of these deaths will not receive a suicide or open verdict at inquest). Annual numbers may change slightly from time to time as inquest verdicts and other information become available.

Table 2: estimated number of individuals[1] who self-harmed in prison custody

Nationality	1997[2]	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Foreign	58	122	134	188	239	289	383	460	491	588
UK	1,019	1,940	2,226	2,536	3,175	3,327	4,250	4,596	5,017	5,069
Unknown	5	4	3	10	29	21	27	27	27	24
Total	1,082	2,066	2,363	2,734	3,443	3,637	4,660	5,083	5,535	5,681

[1] These are estimates of the number of individuals, based on 94 per cent. of recorded incidents of self-harm. Recorded self-harm is based on information supplied by prisons through the Prison Service Incident Reporting System (IRS). Self-harm is a high volume incident and is subject to technical and recording problems. Nevertheless, the system provides a sensible indication of the numbers of incidents and individuals who self-harm but the numbers should not be treated as absolute.

[2] Please note that the way self-harm is reported in prisons improved in 2002 and figures before then are not comparable.

Prisons: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* assaults on, *(b)* sexual assaults on and *(c)* homicides of prisoners by other prisoners occurred in each year since 1997; [158338]

(2) how many *(a)* assaults and *(b)* sexual assaults on prison officers by prisoners occurred in each year since 1997. [158341]

Mr. Hanson: Measuring violence in prisons is imprecise. Acts of violence first have to be recognised as violence, secondly reported and thirdly recorded consistently. Different aspects of reported acts of violence can be counted in different ways, for example by reference to the act itself, the perpetrator, the victim, or the injury.

The following tables contain the numbers requested. Although information on assault incidents has been collected since 1997, the emphasis initially was on reporting more serious incidents and most fights tended not to be reported on the incident reporting system. However, all assaults including fights are required to be reported, and due to significantly improved reporting, figures from 2002 are not directly comparable with those collected in earlier years. They are therefore presented separately.

Table 1: Assaults 1997 to 2001

Type of assault	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001
Apparent homicides	2	4	—	3	—
Prisoner on prisoner sexual assaults	45	62	76	82	69
Prisoner on prisoner assaults	2,441	3,813	5,458	7,188	7,939
Prisoner on officer sexual assaults	23	13	15	15	11
Prisoner on officer assaults	1,710	1,589	1,867	1,931	2,378

Table 2: Assaults 2002-06

Type of assault	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Apparent homicides	—	1	2	3	—
Prisoner on prisoner sexual assaults	112	92	102	87	93
Prisoner on prisoner assaults	8,699	8,955	9,410	10,887	11,520
Prisoner on officer sexual assaults	14	18	20	22	27
Prisoner on officer assaults	2,503	2,522	2,761	3,091	3,123

Prisons: Food

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of each type of food served in prisons in England and Wales was of *(a)* British, *(b)* English and *(c)* Welsh origin in the last year for which figures are available. [160563]

Mr. Hanson: The total proportion of food of each origin cannot be accurately stated as the majority produce is of more than one country.

Prisons: Standards

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many complaints have been received by HM prison service about the commissioning of Ron Tasker's investigation; what action was taken on receipt of these complaints; and if he will make a statement. [161519]

Maria Eagle: My Department does not hold a central record of complaints received by the prison service into the commissioning of the Tasker investigation.

Privy Council: Retirement

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many employees in the Privy Council Office applied to continue to work beyond state retirement age in the latest year or part thereof for which figures are available; and how many of those applications were successful. [161294]

Mr. Wills: No employees in the Privy Council Office applied to continue to work beyond state retirement age in the latest year or part thereof.

Racially Aggravated Offences

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions for inciting racial hatred there were in each year since 1997. [160969]

The Solicitor-General: I have been asked to reply.

The Attorney-General's office keeps data on prosecutions under part 3 of the Public Order Act 1986, relating to offences concerning conduct intended to, or likely to, stir up racial hatred. The following table captures the relevant AGO data for the period 1997 to 2007 inclusive. The AGO statistics are recorded by reference to the year in which each case was referred to the Crown Prosecution Service by the police, rather than the year in which an offender was eventually convicted.

Year[1]	*Number of offenders convicted*
1997	4
1998	0
1999	3
2000	5
2001	1
2002	1
2003	7
2004	3
2005	2
2006	3
2007	0
Total	29

[1] Year the case were referred to CPS by police.

Sexual Offences

Mr. Hood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which areas have been selected as pilot schemes for compulsory polygraph tests as a management tool to control sex offenders; and if he will make a statement. [161846]

Maria Eagle: The terms for a pilot of mandatory polygraph testing of certain sex offenders on licensed release from custody, including which areas will participate in the pilots, have yet to be finalised. The purpose of the pilot, limited to two probation regions, would be to determine whether polygraph testing is a useful additional risk management tool for offender managers supervising sex offenders in the community.

Sexual Offences: Children

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were convicted of sexual offences against children in each year from 1980-81 to 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [153941]

Mr. Hanson: Information on the number of people convicted of sexual offences against children for the years 1995 to 2005 can be viewed in the following table.

Information for 1980 to 1994 is being gathered and I will write to the hon. Gentleman and place a copy in the Libraries of the House once available.

Court proceedings data for 2006 will be available in the autumn of 2007.

The number of persons found guilty at all courts for sexual offences against children in England and Wales for the years 1995 to 2005[1, 2, 3, 4]

	Found guilty
1995	2,300
1996	2,599
1997	2,660
1998	2,557
1999	2,507
2000	2,286
2001	2,163
2002	2,284
2003	2,154
2004	2,399
2005	2,198

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] 128 offences have been used In this table and include sections of the following statutes: Sexual Offences Act 2003, Sexual Offences Act 1956, Sexual Offences Act 1956 as amended by Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, Sexual Offences Act 1956 as amended by Sexual Offences (Amendment) Act 2000, Sexual Offences Act 1956 as amended by the Sexual Offences Act 1967.

[4] Some offences have been omitted as the vast majority of data will be against adults, and a minority will be against children.

Source:

Court proceedings database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

Substantive answer from David Hanson to David Laws:

In the response to PQ 153941 sent on 10/09/2007 I undertook to provide the additional information when it became available.

Information on the number of people convicted of sexual offences against children for the years 1980 to 1994 can be viewed in the attached table.

Court proceedings data are available on a calendar year basis.

Court proceedings data for 2006 will be available in the autumn of 2007.

I am placing a copy of this letter in the Library of the House of Commons.

The number of persons found guilty at all courts for sexual offences against children in England and Wales for the years 1980 to 1994[1] [2] [3] [4]

	Found guilty
1980	2,428
1981	2,508
1982	2,553
1983	2,477
1984	2,356
1985	2,456
1986	2,275
1987	2,554
1988	2,708
1989	2,544
1990	2,484
1991	2,230
1992	2,071
1993	1,804
1994	1,989

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

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[4] Some offences have been omitted as the vast majority of data will be against adults, and a minority will be against children.

Source:

Court proceedings database—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice.

Sexual Offences: Eastern Region

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people on the Sex Offenders Register are in *(a)* the east of England and *(b)* Suffolk; and how many of these are being supervised by the probation service. [161608]

Maria Eagle: The number of sex offenders who are subject to notification requirements in *(a)* the east of England and *(b)* Suffolk who are managed through the multi-Agency public protection arrangements is given in the following table.

Registered sex offenders (RSOs)

		Number
(a)	East of England	2,824
(b)	Suffolk	413

We do not collect data centrally to distinguish the number of offenders who are both subject to notification requirements and who are under the supervision of the probation service. This information would be available only at a disproportionate cost.

Sexual Offences: Monitoring

Mr. Hood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many high-risk sex offenders are being monitored by satellite tracking; and if he will make a statement. [161847]

Maria Eagle: There are no offenders currently being monitored by satellite tracking. The satellite tracking pilots ran from September 2004 until June 2006, during which time 59 sex offenders were subject to tracking. The pilots were subject to an independent evaluation and the final report was published online on 2 August 2007. A copy was placed in the House of Commons Library.

Mr. Hood: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make a statement on his plans to increase public awareness of how sex offenders are housed in the community. [161848]

Maria Eagle: In England and Wales, a proportion of convicted sex offenders living in the community are housed in approved premises (formerly probation and bail hostels). Approved premises provide for enhanced supervision and for restrictions on offenders that would not be possible were such offenders to be dispersed into alternative accommodation in the community.

Earlier this year, the Government published the report of their review of the protection of children from sex offenders. The report reaffirmed using approved premises to supervise certain sex offenders on release from custody. It also advocated a number of measures designed to increase public awareness of the way that sex offenders are managed in the community. All of those recommendations were accepted and are in the process of being introduced.

In Scotland, the Scottish Executive's approach to housing sex offenders in the community is set out in the national strategy on the accommodation of sex offenders, published in 2007.

Sudbury Prison: Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many inmates have absconded from Sudbury open prison since the beginning of the year; how many of these were convicted murderers; and what further steps he is taking to ensure that persons sent to prison remain in custody. [159660]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is being collated and I will write to the hon. Member as soon as it is available.

Substantive answer from David Hanson to Greg Knight:

I recently undertook to write to you following your parliamentary question of 23 October. The information that you requested has now been collated by the prison service.

Between 1 April and 30 September 2007 28 prisoners absconded from Sudbury open prison compared to 50 absconds for the same period in 2006. Two of these 28 prisoners were convicted for murder. Six of the 28 prisoners are still at large including one of the two murderers. A wide range of measures are in force to prevent absconds including rigorous intelligence systems to identify prisoners likely to abscond. In addition, HMP Sudbury is collaborating successfully with the Crown Prosecution Service to ensure prosecution of absconders, acting as a further deterrent.

Terrorism: Asylum

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those arrested on suspicion of terrorist offences since the events of 11 September 2001 have at some point claimed asylum. [161581]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

British Waterways Board: Finance

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department plans to make a financial contribution to British Waterways; whether she has had discussions with British Waterways on funding; and if she will make a statement. [160721]

Mr. Dhanda: DEFRA is the single Government sponsor of British Waterways in England and Wales. It provides core funding towards the upkeep of its waterways. Other Government Departments have the flexibility to fund the inland waterways direct where they can deliver specific policy requirements, e.g. through grants for regeneration and freight projects where funds are provided to reflect the contribution of inland waterways to Departmental objectives.

My Department has had no direct discussions with BW on funding. However I understand that DEFRA and BW are working closely together on planning for the comprehensive spending review 2007 period in the context of the Department's overall priorities and financial pressures. DEFRA is also working with BW on a new long term strategy for a sustainable network that delivers wider Government priorities including regeneration, protection of historic and natural environment, well being and freight.

British Waterways Board: Grants

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether her Department or its predecessors provided grants to British Waterways since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [161567]

Mr. Dhanda: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Convention for the Protection of National Minorities

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which organisations were included in her Department's consultation prior to the preparation of the second compliance report under the European framework convention for the protection of national minorities; and how these organisations were selected. [161690]

Mr. Dhanda: The Department for Communities and Local Government took over responsibility for the preparation of the UK's second compliance report under the framework convention for the protection of national minorities from the Home Office in May 2006. The Department prepared a draft report drawing on contributions from other Government Departments and the Administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The draft report was then sent for comment to those Departments and Administrations, as well as to the Commission for Racial Equality, the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and a range of non-governmental organisations. Annex A to the second compliance report lists the non-governmental bodies to whom the draft report was sent. The list was based on that used by the Home Office for the first compliance report, along with other organisations who had requested copies of the draft report since then. The second compliance report was transmitted to the Council of Europe in February 2007. Copies of the report were placed in the Libraries of both Houses. It can also be viewed on the Council of Europe's website at:

www.coe.int/T/E/human_rights/minorities/

Council Housing: Construction

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many council houses were built in each of the last 30 years. [147888]

Yvette Cooper: The numbers of local authority dwellings built in each year since 1976 are tabulated as follows. Also included are the numbers of registered social landlord "social for rent" new build completions and total completions. The figures do not include social housing acquisitions which also increase the stock. In total in 2007-08 there will be 30,000 additional social housing units increasing to 45,000 additional social housing units by 2010-11. The Green Paper includes ways for more councils to build social housing.

New build "social rent" completions since 1976, England

	Local authority[1]	*Registered social landlords*[2]
1976	118,093	14,436
1977	115,839	24,193
1978	93,304	20,572
1979	74,790	16,275
1980-81	74,776	19,927
1981-82	48,241	15,040
1982-83	29,534	10,763
1983-84	29,538	14,776
1984-85	28,774	13,351
1985-86	21,965	10,910
1986-87	19,206	10,369
1987-88	16,215	11,206
1988-89	16,151	10,766
1989-90	14,784	10,914
1990-91	12,958	14,575
1991-92	7,113	14,657
1992-93	2,579	36,931
1993-94	1,451	38,816
1994-95	853	39,867
1995-96	757	43,458
1996-97	451	29,146
1997-98	323	23,692
1998-99	178	22,429
1999-2000	58	19,516
2000-01	179	17,303

New build "social rent" completions since 1976, England

	Local authority[1]	*Registered social landlords*[2]
2001-02	63	17,506
2002-03	199	16,588
2003-04	191	16,557
2004-05	100	16,818
2005-06	299	18,353
2006-07	245	[3]21,500

[3] Estimate.

Source:

[1] New-build completions from P2 returns submitted by local authorities and National House Building Council (NHBC)

[2] For years up to 1990-91 figures are from P2 and NHBC. From 1991-92 figures are "social rent" new build as reported by the Housing Corporation and include figures on S106 agreements.

New-build social for rent dwellings only make up part of the affordable supply; the remainder being acquired by registered social landlords or through new build intermediate housing e.g. low-cost home ownership.

Council Housing: Eligibility

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what changes have been made to the eligibility requirements for local authority social housing since May 1997. [152552]

Yvette Cooper: I will write to the hon. Member.

Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much revenue was raised from council tax in England in 2006-07 *(a)* in gross terms and *(b)* net after council tax benefits; and what the forecast estimates are for 2007-08. [157588]

John Healey: The revenue raised from council tax in England in 2006-07 and the forecast for 2007-08 both in *(a)* gross terms and *(b)* net after council tax benefits are shown as follows.

	2006-07	*£ million 2007-08*
As budgeted		
Council tax requirement	22,453	23,608
Council tax benefit	3,349	3,532
Net council tax income	19,104	20,076
Outturn figures		
Gross council tax due	22,793	—
Council tax benefit	3,239	—
Net collectable debit	19,554	—

Council Tax: Statistics

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what statistics her Department collects on the amount and proportion of unpaid council tax that is written off. [157676]

John Healey: Details of the amount of unpaid council tax that has been written off by local authorities are collected on the quarterly return of council taxes and non-domestic rates (QRC4) form that is completed annually by all billing authorities.

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what departmental budget items have been reclassified, under consolidated budgeting guidance, following comprehensive spending review 2007 decisions; and what the *(a)* former and *(b)* new (i) classification and (ii) sum budgeted is in each case. [160419]

Mr. Dhanda: No budget items for this Department have been reclassified as part of CSR07 decisions.

Departments: Assets

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what departmental assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; and what the expected revenue from each such sale is. [160347]

Mr. Dhanda: The central Department has no property assets planned to be sold from 2007-08 to 2010-11. Asset management policy for its other classes of assets is to fully use them up before planned disposal, as nil value waste, rather than as saleable assets. In consequence there are no plans for asset sales by the central part of the Department in the period.

The asset management strategy for the whole Communities and Local Government family is planned to be published in December.

Departments: Civil Proceedings

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many civil law suits have been brought against her Department based either wholly or partially on grounds provided by the Human Rights Act 1998; how many were settled out of court, before a court judgment was delivered; and how much such settlements cost the public purse since 1998. [160704]

Mr. Dhanda: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what efficiency savings her Department was required to make as part of its spending review 2004 targets; what efficiency projects have been undertaken in the Department in pursuit of those targets; on what date each was initiated; and how much each was predicted to contribute to the SR04 target. [160554]

Mr. Dhanda: The details of the workstreams within our efficiency programme, including how much each

was predicted to contribute towards the SR04 target are contained within the efficiency technical note published in December 2005 by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

The Department regularly publishes details on the progress made on meeting its efficiency target, including a breakdown of efficiency savings made in each workstream, in both its annual report and autumn performance report.

Departments: Disabled

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which buildings occupied by her Department *(a)* are and *(b)* are not fully accessible to disabled people; and if she will make a statement. [161182]

Mr. Dhanda: Of the 16 buildings occupied by my Department, 14 are considered to be fully accessible, and two are not fully accessible to disabled people.

Where there are access difficulties for disabled people, my Department makes appropriate reasonable adjustments to its arrangements for the recruitment and employment of staff, and the services and functions it delivers to its users, in accordance with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

This answer does not include Government office for the regions who carry out functions on behalf of 10 Government Departments.

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many regulations her Department has *(a)* brought forward and *(b)* revoked over the last 12 months. [158734]

Mr. Dhanda: In the period October 2006 to September 2007, Communities and Local Government made 101 statutory instruments (regulations and orders). As part of the regulatory changes made by these instruments 16 statutory instruments were revoked entirely, another was revoked as to England only, and another seven were partially revoked.

The Government have committed to a 25 per cent. reduction in administrative burden arising from regulation by 2010. In delivering this commitment, the Government are also repealing regulations where appropriate.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether any of her Department's special advisers have declared a conflict of interest. [160788]

Mr. Dhanda: Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the 'Model Contract for Special Advisers'. Copies of the 'Model Contract' are available in the Libraries of the House.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what dates her Department breached its *(a)* resource, *(b)* near-cash, *(c)* administration and *(d)* capital budgets since 2001; what the value of each breach was; and what the reason was for each breach. [160310]

Mr. Dhanda: No breaches of these budgets have been reported since 2001.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in which financial years since 2001 her Department's outturn for its capital budget at the end of the year was less than planned at the beginning of the year; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* reason for the underspend was in each case. [160329]

Mr. Dhanda: The National Audit Office measures spending performance against plans by comparing outturns against final provision following supplementary estimates—rather than against plans at the start of the year—as plans can change during the year for a number of reasons, such as machinery of government and classification changes. The definitive figures for final provision and provisional outturn are published each year in the Public Expenditure Outturns White Paper. Changes to plans arising in-year are published in public expenditure statistical analyses, as are differences between provisional and final outturns.

In recent years, the Department's capital underspends have been reducing and have generally been below 5 per cent. The exception to this was in 2004-05, when a delay (caused by circumstances outside the Department's control and known only in the last week of the year) of a £225 million property transfer from NHS Estates to English Partnerships caused a larger underspend.

Underspends which have arisen have generally been as a result of slippage on capital projects or of forecast capital acquisitions, which can occur for various reasons, not always in the control of the Department.

Departments: Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many citizens' juries have been arranged by her Department since June 2007; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the cost was of each exercise. [159498]

Hazel Blears: The Department has not held any citizens' juries since June 2007. However, Communities and Local Government will be using juries to consider issues of cohesion, migration and housing. These are in the early stage of being arranged and no formal contracts have yet been issued, and no firm costs or budgets have yet been assigned to these.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many citizens' juries were arranged for *(a)* her Department and its predecessor and *(b)* her Department's and its

predecessor's agencies in each year since 1997; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the cost was of each. [160009]

Hazel Blears: Data from 1997 is not readily available and would require a significant review of all engagement activities and analysis of the techniques used, extracting costs for citizens' juries at a disproportionate cost.

Departments: Retirement

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many employees in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by her Department applied to continue to work beyond state retirement age in the latest year or part thereof for which figures are available; and how many of those applications were successful. [161298]

Mr. Dhanda: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departments: Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of questions tabled to her Department for answer on a named day received a substantive reply on the day named in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [161343]

Mr. Dhanda: From the start of the 2006-07 Session (15 November 2006) to 24 October 2007, the Department received 606 questions for answer on a named day of which 344 (56.8 per cent.) received a substantive reply on the day named.

Elections: Northumberland

Mr. Beith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many representations she has received in favour of elections to the new Northumberland unitary authority being held in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [160813]

John Healey *[holding answer 25 October 2007]:* We are continuing our dialogue with the affected authorities about election dates on the basis of our discussion paper, "Councils' Proposals for Unitary Local Government—An Approach to Implementation" published on 22 August. Once we have reached a final view, as reflected in any order under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Bill, we will publish a summary of all representations and comments we have received on this matter.

Emergency Services

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the FireControl business case has considered the merits of tri-service emergency centres. [157462]

Mr. Dhanda: Two independent reports by consultants Mott MacDonald looked at the provision of control room services including tri-service centres. The reports concluded that efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of fire control services could best be achieved from the amalgamation of existing controls into nine regional control centres. These reports informed the decision to proceed with FireControl.

The FireControl business case sets out the costs and benefits of the FireControl project. It compares the merits of the proposed FireControl arrangements with those of the existing arrangements, which includes the tri-service centres.

Europe Economics: Finance

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding her Department has given to Europe Economics in each year since 2002; and for what purpose in the case of each award. [156599]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 654-55W.

Fire Service: Manpower

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1030-31W, on fire service: manpower, what assessment she has made of the effect of the change in the number of control room operators, managers and other support staff to be employed at each fire control centre. [161392]

Mr. Dhanda: We expect that the total number of staff in the new regional control centres to be around 30 per cent. less than the number currently employed in the control rooms of English fire authorities. As a result we expect there will be efficiency savings.

The forecast staffing numbers will ensure the new system will match or exceed the performance of existing arrangements. The new system will also deliver enhanced resilience and functionality.

The model used to generate forecast staff numbers is based on a range of data and assumptions. The model has been developed involving stakeholders from the fire and rescue service.

The decision on the actual numbers of staff to be employed in each control centre will be for its RCC company to determine.

Floods: Boscastle

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what financial assistance her Department made available to the town of Boscastle following floods there. [161189]

John Healey: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Gazumping

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department is taking to tackle gazumping. [157697]

Yvette Cooper: The introduction of compulsory home information packs, coupled with e-conveyancing and the Department's work on wider reforms to home buying and selling aim to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the current home buying and selling process, including by discouraging gazumping.

Green Belt

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proposals for reviews to the green belt are contained within the draft regional spatial strategies. [151311]

Yvette Cooper: I will write to the hon. Member.

Green Belt: Planning

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans the regional spatial strategies have to review the green belt in each Government Office region. [155685]

Yvette Cooper: I will write to the hon. Member.

Home Information Packs

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was paid in aggregate to staff within the home information pack division in bonuses in the last year for which figures are available. [155708]

Yvette Cooper: I will write to the hon. Member.

Home Information Packs: Finance

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the total funding is being provided by her Department to subsidise *(a)* home information packs and *(b)* energy performance certificates. [155714]

Yvette Cooper: In September 2006 the Department announced that up to £4 million would be allocated to support six area trials in England and Wales.

In addition in May 2007 the Department announced funding of up to £0.5 million for up to 5,000 EPCs to be included in HIPs ordered prior to 1 August.

In July 2007, the Department offered 50 per cent. funding for pilot projects to examine the technical production of EPCs for social housing. £2 million funding was allotted for registered social landlords (via the Housing Corporation) and up to £1.5 million for local authorities.

Home Information Packs: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of the impact of the introduction of home information packs on the residential housing market in the Peterborough city council area; and if she will make a statement. [157949]

Yvette Cooper: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Homebuy Options

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to increase the take up of the different Homebuy options. [109683]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 18 December 2007]:* Since 1 April 2006, over 20,000 households across all regions have been helped into home ownership through open market homebuy, new build homebuy (shared ownership) and social homebuy, the shared ownership and shared equity products funded through the Housing Corporation. The Housing Corporation is on course to meet its overall target for 2006-08.

To increase overall take up of Homebuy and particularly to increase new build shared ownerships schemes the Government will invest through the Housing Corporation to fund at least 25,000 low cost home ownership homes a year from 2008-09. In addition the Government are promoting other ways to increase investment in the affordable housing industry though use of public sector land and piloting local housing companies.

Open market homebuy, which enables purchasers to buy with the help of an equity loan, aims to build a market for private sector involvement in shared equity which could ultimately stretch grant funding further. Currently four lenders are participating and offering shared equity mortgages under the scheme, though these products only suit some groups of first time buyers. In order to extend this to provide products suitable for a wider range of first time buyers we want to promote further private sector involvement in shared equity mortgages, to make products more competitive, and to widen choice and access. Therefore we will launch new shared equity products next year based on the competition being run by the Housing Corporation.

We have also appointed Brian Pomeroy to advise us on development of the private shared equity market.

In the meantime we agreed in the Green Paper that Government will provide an additional 17.5 per cent. shared equity product in the interim from July 2007 in order to widen access and choice and provide more flexibility.

The provision of new shared ownership housing continues to rise and is helping purchasers to get on the housing ladder with shares from 25 per cent.

Social homebuy is running as a voluntary pilot scheme until March 2008. The pilot scheme enables tenants of nine local authorities and 77 housing associations to purchase a minimum 25 per cent. share in their rented home at a discount. The Government are reviewing the operation of the pilots in order to look at more ways to help social housing tenants own assets.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households have taken advantage of each of the three homebuy options since their inception. [109682]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 18 December 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to my answer earlier today (Question 109683).

The following table sets out the completions for the homebuy/shared ownership products from April 2006 until September 2007.

	Total completions
Open Market Homebuy	3,477
New Build Homebuy/Shared Ownership	18,029
Social Homebuy Pilot Scheme	88
Total Shared Ownership and Shared Equity	21,594

Notes:
1. NBHB/SO excludes 11 units through LASHG LA with debt schemes.
2. NBHB/SO figures include RCGF units of 1,044 and 2,562 of RCGF units from 2005-06 not previously counted.
3. 1/4/07 to 30/9/07 NBHB/SO figures include 50 units through Thames Gateway social homebuy includes sales in both the housing association and local authority sectors.

Hometrack

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the written submissions by Hometrack to *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency. [152832]

Yvette Cooper: The Valuation Office has received no written submissions from Hometrack. I refer to my answer of 29 October (question 152685) with regard to communications between Hometrack and CLG.

Housing

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what schemes her Department sponsors designed to assist all categories of first time buyers to buy a home; what public expenditure has been on each such scheme since inception; how many first time buyers have used each scheme since inception, broken down by region; and what estimate she has made of potential total demand for each such scheme in 2008-09. [155526]

Yvette Cooper: I will write to the hon. Member.

Housing: Energy

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations her Department has received from organisations calling for energy performance certificates to be attached to valuations. [155712]

Yvette Cooper: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Housing: Green Belt

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many dwellings were built within the 1997 designated Green Belt in each year between 1997 and 2006. [130758]

Yvette Cooper: I will write to the hon. Member.

Housing: Immigrants

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many dwellings were *(a)* vacated and *(b)* taken up by A8 EU accession country migrants in each month since January 2004 through Peterborough city council's choice-based lettings scheme. [160802]

Yvette Cooper: Information on dwellings that were *(a)* vacated by A8 EU Accession Country Migrants is not collected centrally. Information on *(b)* social lettings made to A8 EU Accessions Country Migrants through Choice-based Lettings scheme is not currently available. Since this Government came into power, we have strengthened the regulations which restricts access to social housing for foreign nationals.

Housing: Low Incomes

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households participated in *(a)* social homebuy, *(b)* newbuild homebuy and *(c)* open market homebuy in each financial year since the inception of the relevant scheme. [128531]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) today, (PQ 109682).

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much public expenditure was incurred on *(a)* social homebuy, *(b)* newbuild homebuy and *(c)* open market homebuy in each financial year. [128532]

Yvette Cooper: The following table sets out the expenditure through the Housing Corporation affordable housing programme for the delivery of shared ownership and shared equity products from 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007

	Forecast public expenditure (£ million)
Open Market Homebuy	76.9
New Build Homebuy and Shared Ownership	320.5
Social Homebuy	0.5

Funding and completions are not directly comparable, as funding will relate to projects running, not necessarily units completed, in any one year.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households took out a mortgage under new building homebuy in each month since the creation of the scheme. [128614]

Yvette Cooper: New build and shared ownership completions as a result of the Housing Corporation funding are set out in the following table. These figures do not include shared ownership homes funded through FTBI, transitional local authority social housing grant for with debt authorities and section 106 without grant.

New build homebuy and shared ownership—completions from 1 April 2006-30 September 2007

	Number
2006-07	
April	27
May	265
June	342
July	505
August	584
September	957
October	671
November	668
December	1,308
January	1,003
February	904
March	3,795
Total	11,029
2007-08	
April	61
May	178
June	655
July	611
August	630
September	1,259
Total	3,394
Grand total	14,423

Note:
These figures do not include completed units through recycled capital grant fund

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households took out a shared equity mortgage under open market homebuy in each month since the creation of the scheme. [128618]

Yvette Cooper: The table sets out completions under the open market homebuy scheme which is promoting private sector involvement in shared equity mortgages. Currently four lenders are participating in the joint public/private 25 per cent. equity loan. The Government believe more competitive products are needed to reach a wider number of first time buyers and has asked Brian Pomeroy to look at ways to better extend private sector involvement in shared equity in order to help more first time buyers.

Open market Homebuy—completions from 1 April 2006 to 30 September 2007

	2006-07	2007-08
April	38	4
May	1	230
June	44	177
July	189	171
August	418	227
September	423	161
October	361	—
November	176	—
December	175	—
January	97	—
February	176	—
March	409	—
Total	2,507	970
Grand total		3,477

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the regional distribution is of the stock of homes purchased under the Government's *(a)* social homebuy, *(b)* open market, *(c)* homebuy and *(d)* shared ownership initiatives. [141752]

Yvette Cooper: I refer my hon. Friend to my response of 30 October to my hon. Friend the Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) [Question 109683].

The following table shows completions through social homebuy, open market homebuy, new build homebuy/shared ownership schemes by region from April 2006 to September 2007.

Regional Completions 1 April 2006 to 30 September 2007

	Social Homebuy	Open market Homebuy	New build Homebuy/share ownership
North East	7	4	119
North West	10	101	783
Yorkshire and the Humber	24	106	526
East Midlands	4	73	1,013
West Midlands	2	207	1,,015
East	0	422	1,556
London	39	1,163	4,717
South East	2	1,222	3,476
South West	0	1,79	1,229
Total	88	3,477	14,434

Notes:
1. 2006-07 Regional figures for shared ownership include 58 units through Thames Gateway (all in London) and 11 through LASHG LA with debt schemes.
2. 2007-08 end September figures include, in London, 50 shared ownership units provided through Thames Gateway
3. Regional figures do not include 1,044 RCGF completion or 2,562 2005-06 RCGF completions

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of *(a)* home completions and *(b)* planning permission awards in each Government office of the regions area in England were affordable; and what proportion of these were for (i) sale, (ii) rent, (iii) shared-equity ownership and (iv) other housing tenure format in each of the last 10 years for which records are available. [148253]

Yvette Cooper: Tabulated as follows are the numbers of house building completions in each region in England since 1997-98. Also shown are the relative proportions of house building activity by tenure in each year. It is not possible to distinguish between owner occupied and private rent. Similar information on the numbers of planning permission awards by tenure is not held centrally.

Not all affordable housing supply is through new build completions, supply can also come from the acquisition and refurbishment of private sector homes. In the 10 years between 1 April 1997 and 31 March 2007, approximately 120,000 additional affordable homes were supplied through acquisitions which are not represented in the following table. Complete figures for 2006-07 are not yet available.

House building completions by tenure

	Affordable housing completions[1] (new build only) (percentage)		*Private sector completions (percentage)*	*Total new build completions[2] (number)*
	Social rent	*Intermediate*	*Proportions*	*Units*
North East				
1997-98	14	2	83	7,581
1998-99	13	2	85	6,541
1999-2000	10	1	89	7,196
2000-01	7	1	92	6,641
2001-02	11	2	87	6,429
2002-03	5	0	95	5,607
2003-04	9	0	90	5,939
2004-05	8	1	91	7,132
2005-06	10	3	86	7,637
2006-07[3]	—	—	—	8,193
North West				
1997-98	14	3	83	19,201
1998-99	15	3	81	19,217
1999-2000	12	2	86	18,281
2000-01	11	2	87	18,172
2001-02	13	3	84	15,835
2002-03	11	3	86	18,197
2003-04	6	3	91	17,752
2004-05	7	4	89	17,905
2005-06	6	4	90	20,619
2006-07[3]	—	—	—	18,110
Yorkshire and the Humber				
1997-98	13	3	83	15,464
1998-99	11	3	86	13,083
1999-2000	10	2	88	13,324
2000-01	10	1	89	13,344
2001-02	9	1	89	13,171
2002-03	8	1	91	13,200
2003-04	8	2	90	13,996
2004-05	7	1	91	14,187
2005-06	8	3	89	16,035
2006-07[3]	—	—	—	16,461
East Midlands				
1997-98	11	3	86	14,549
1998-99	11	2	87	14,759
1999-2000	7	2	91	16,484
2000-01	8	2	90	13,675
2001-02	8	1	91	14,102
2002-03	8	1	91	14,875
2003-04	7	2	90	14,375
2004-05	7	3	90	15,465
2005-06	9	6	84	16,886
2006-07[3]	—	—	—	18,171
West Midlands				
1997-98	16	3	81	13,392

House building completions by tenure

	Affordable housing completions[1] (new build only) (percentage)		*Private sector completions (percentage)*	*Total new build completions[2] (number)*
	Social rent	*Intermediate*	*Proportions*	*Units*
1998-99	15	2	82	14,253
1999-2000	16	2	82	15,377
2000-01	15	1	84	14,094
2001-02	12	3	85	13,373
2002-03	15	3	82	13,872
2003-04	12	3	84	13,843
2004-05	14	6	80	14,153
2005-06	14	10	77	16,191
2006-07[3]	—	—	—	15,097
East				
1997-98	12	2	87	21,301
1998-99	15	1	84	18,954
1999-2000	10	0	89	18,767
2000-01	13	1	86	16,026
2001-02	14	1	85	15,616
2002-03	12	1	86	17,844
2003-04	13	2	85	18,395
2004-05	13	2	85	19,885
2005-06	14	6	79	20,251
2006-07[3]				22,616
London				
1997-98	30	6	64	13,623
1998-99	26	7	67	14,877
1999-2000	26	6	68	13,928
2000-01	28	6	66	14,492
2001-02	30	6	64	13,927
2002-03	22	8	70	15,670
2003-04	22	9	70	19,394
2004-05	17	9	73	24,063
2005-06	25	12	63	18,809
2006-07[3]	—	—	—	21,846
South East				
1997-98	19	2	78	25,441
1998-99	20	3	77	23,199
1999-2000	16	1	83	22,797
2000-01	14	3	83	21,839
2001-02	15	3	82	21,815
2002-03	14	4	81	22,745
2003-04	15	7	78	24,280
2004-05	15	12	73	25,692
2005-06	14	11	75	28,209
2006-07[3]	—	—	—	27,698
South West				
1997-98	17	2	81	19,003
1998-99	14	2	84	15,825
1999-2000	15	1	83	15,892
2000-01	14	1	85	14,972
2001-02	14	2	84	15,598
2002-03	12	2	86	15,729
2003-04	16	2	82	15,984
2004-05	11	5	84	17,411
2005-06	14	7	79	18,761
2006-07[3]	—	—	—	19,499

House building completions by tenure

	Affordable housing completions[1] (new build only) (percentage)		*Private sector completions (percentage)*	*Total new build completions[2] (number)*
	Social rent	*Intermediate*	*Proportions*	*Units*
England				
1997-98	16	3	81	149,555
1998-99	16	3	81	140,708
1999-2000	14	2	84	142,046
2000-01	14	2	84	133,255
2001-02	14	2	83	129,866
2002-03	13	3	84	137,739
2003-04	13	4	83	143,958
2004-05	12	6	82	155,893
2005-06	13	7	80	163,398
2006-07[3]	–	–	–	167,691

[3] Provisional.

Note:

Due to founding proportions might not add to exactly 100 per cent.

Sources:

[1] Housing Corporation, HSSA returns from local authorities.

[2] P2 house building returns from local authorities and National House-Building Council.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* councils and *(b)* housing associations are participating in the (i) social homebuy scheme, (ii) open market homebuy scheme and *(c)* new build homebuy scheme. [153500]

Yvette Cooper: The information requested is as follows:

(i) *(a)* I refer the hon. Member to my response of 29 October 2007 to my hon. Friend the Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) (Question 109683).

(ii) The open market homebuy scheme is being offered across the country by 23 housing associations appointed as homebuy agents.

(iii) 77 housing associations have an allocation to provide new build homebuy properties in 2006-08.

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many contracts have been exchanged for properties under the *(a)* social homebuy scheme, *(b)* open market homebuy scheme and *(c)* new build homebuy scheme in each government office region. [153501]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 30 October to my hon. Friend the Member for Newcastle Upon Tyne Central (Jim Cousins) (question 141752).

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many social homebuy sales have been completed in each government office region in England. [153908]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 30 October to my hon. Friend the Member for Newcastle upon Tyne Central (Jim Cousins) (question 141752).

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties have been purchased under the open market homebuy schemes. [155676]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 30 October (question 109682).

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of social homebuy purchasers have purchased *(a)* 100 per cent. shares and *(b)* shares between 10 per cent. and 100 per cent. [155855]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) on 30 October (question 109683).

Of the 88 sales up to the end of September under the pilot social homebuy scheme, a quarter of sales involved the purchase of shares between 25 per cent. and 75 per cent.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many transactions have been completed for sales under the new build homebuy scheme; [157456]

(2) how many transactions have been completed for sales under the open market homebuy and extended open market homebuy schemes. [157458]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to my response of 30 October to my hon. Friend the Member for Stroud (Mr. Drew) (question 109683).

Most of the social homebuy pilot sales have been in the housing association sector, with three up to the end of September in the local authority sector.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1331-2W, on housing: low incomes, how many of the new *(a)* local authority social lettings and *(b)* registered social landlords lettings were to foreign nationals from (i) EU states and (ii) non-EU states. [161475]

Yvette Cooper: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Housing: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will hold discussions with Peterborough city council on the impact of EU migration on the provision of social housing in Peterborough. [159577]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 19 October 2007]:* Ministers have received no request from Peterborough city council to hold discussions on the impact of EU migration on the provision of social housing in Peterborough. However, a Minister from Communities and Local Government regularly discusses the impact of migration on services throughout the United Kingdom, including housing, at meetings of the Migration Impacts Forum. The forum is jointly chaired between this Department and the Home Office. The forum is made up of representatives from both within and outside of government and the most recent meeting of the forum took place on 17 October.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many individuals who are not UK citizens were housed by *(a)* Cross Keys Homes and *(b)* other registered social landlords in Peterborough under the auspices of the Accession (Immigration and Worker Registration) Regulations 2004 in each month since May 2004; and if she will make a statement. [160972]

Yvette Cooper: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many individuals from EU Accession 8 countries have been classified as not habitually resident in the UK but homeless in Peterborough constituency in the period since May 2004; how many have subsequently been housed through the Peterborough city council choice-based lettings system; and if she will make a statement. [160977]

Yvette Cooper: Data on habitual residency is not held centrally.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many citizens of EU Accession 8 countries have been refused admittance to the housing waiting list of Peterborough city council under section 160A(7) of the Housing Act 1996 since May 2004; and if she will make a statement; [160978]

(2) how many individuals who are not UK citizens are on the priority banding system of the Peterborough city council housing waiting list at *(a)* band 1, *(b)* band 2, *(c)* band 3, *(d)* band 4 and *(e)* band 5; and if she will make a statement; [160979]

(3) if she will make an estimate of the number of people on the Peterborough city council housing waiting list who have *(a)* Lithuanian and *(b)* Polish nationality; [161105]

(4) if she will make an estimate of the proportion of the Peterborough city council choice-based lettings housing waiting list which is made up by individuals who do not hold British nationality. [161106]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authorities in England report the numbers of households (not people) on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual housing strategy statistical appendix returns. However, information is not collected centrally on *(a)* whether the household has been refused admittance to the housing waiting list; *(b)* information on the priority banding system of the waiting list; *(c)* the nationality of the household on the waiting list or *(d)* individual choice-based lettings registers.

The number of households on Peterborough's housing waiting list, as at 1 April each year, is published on the Communities and Local Government website in table 600. The link for this table is given as follows:

http://www.comm.unities.gov.uk/embedded_object.asp?id=1163853

Not everyone on the waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get on to the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house—particularly where the priority system is heavily based on waiting time.

Since this Government came into power, we have strengthened the regulations which determine eligibility for access to social housing for foreign nationals.

Licensing: Home Information Packs

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether information on *(a)* applications and *(b)* consents for premises selling alcohol or regulated entertainment under the Licensing Act 2003 is (i) required or (ii) at the seller's discretion for inclusion in home information packs. [157399]

Yvette Cooper: This information may be included in the home information pack at the seller's discretion.

Local Authorities: Voluntary Organisations

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what advice she has given to local authorities on the resource implications of implementing local compacts between local public bodies and the voluntary and community sector; and if she will make a statement. [160115]

Mr. Dhanda: Effective, mutually beneficial partnership working underpins our relationship with the third sector. If utilised, local compacts can help deliver real change for communities.

Resourcing of local compacts is, however, a local issue. The compact's code of good practice on funding and procurement recognises that the main partners

comprising local partnerships should work together to effectively resource local compacts, through;

local public bodies sharing the cost of development and partnership building;

partnership boards including contributions in spending plans and government funding programme bids; and

voluntary and community groups providing a package of support in kind, such as expertise, community links and use of networks.

In addition, our local area agreement guidance refers to local authorities having regard to the capacity of the sector.

Local Government: Redundancy

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated expenditure is on redundancy compensation as a consequence of the forthcoming local government restructuring and establishment of unitary local government. [157664]

John Healey: In the nine areas in which the Secretary of State is currently minded to implement unitary structures, the authorities estimate that the staff release costs are in the order of £70 million. These costs variously include the costs of redundancy, early retirement and pension fund costs. Once implemented, these nine proposals, on the basis of councils' current estimates, will save over £150 million annually.

Muslim Council of Britain

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what measures her Department uses to assess whether the Muslim Council of Britain is tackling extremism and promoting shared values. [160814]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 25 October 2007]:* The Government have made it clear that they are rebalancing their engagement towards those organisations that show leadership in tackling extremism and upholding shared values.

The Department keeps its relationships with stakeholders under ongoing review to ensure that patterns of engagement continue to reinforce our objectives. The Department uses a range of measures to assess appropriate levels of engagement with all stakeholders. These include consideration of organisations' public statements and practical actions undertaken.

Non-Domestic Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the percentage change was in the average business rates bill in England in each year since 1997-98. [153682]

John Healey: Details of the percentage change in the average national non-domestic rates (i.e. business rates) bill in England in each year since 1997-98 are shown in the table this information is available on the Department's website:

www.communities.gov.uk

	Percentage change
1997-98	-0.1
1998-99	3.2
1999-2000	-0.3
2000-01	18.1
2001-02	5.4
2002-03	4.1
2003-04	0.7
2004-05	1.8
2005-06	7.5
2006-07	6.0
2007-08	2.0

The data, which refer to the local lists only, are taken from national non-domestic rates returns submitted by billing authorities.

Average business rate is calculated by dividing the net rate yield from local authorities' lists by the number of hereditaments on local list as at 31 December of the previous year.

It is not possible to compare years as the rateable values for individual properties, and hence actual rates bills, vary greatly.

Changes in the figures for the years around 2000-01 and 2005-06 are affected by adjustments made to the multiplier at the time of revaluation.

In addition the figures for the years around 2000-01 are affected by the transfer of both Crown properties and properties from the central list (where NNDR is paid directly to this department) to local lists (where NNDR is paid to local authorities).

Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder Fund

Mrs. Spelman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether funding allocated to local authorities from the preventing violent extremism pathfinder fund will be in the form of project-related grants. [141727]

Mr. Dhanda: Funds from the preventing violent extremism pathfinder fund are paid through the safer and stronger communities fund as part of local area agreements. They are not paid to local authorities in the form of project-related grants.

Regional Planning and Development: Greater Manchester

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress she has made on alternative economic strategies for east Manchester; and if she will make a statement. [161108]

John Healey: The Prime Minister has asked the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to consider, with other Government Departments, whether deprived areas can be equally well served by forms of regeneration other than a regional casino. To this end, a review of alternatives to casino-led regeneration was commissioned. This work is at an advanced stage and my right hon. Friend will report on it to the Prime Minister shortly.

Renewable Energy: Meetings

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will list the meetings which the Housing Minister has held with representatives of *(a)* the onsite renewable energy industry and *(b)* housing developers and their representatives since June 2006. [159333]

Yvette Cooper: The Minister for Housing and Planning has met representatives of housing developers on the following dates since June 2006.

28 November 2006
31 January 2007
28 March 2007
15 May 2007
13 June 2007
11 July 2007
12 September 2007
17 September 2007
24 October 2007

Ministers from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform have met several times with representatives of the on-site renewable energy industry since June 2006. The DBERR and the Housing Minister both sit on the task force for zero carbon homes.

Renewable Energy: Trade Associations

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which trade associations representing the onsite renewable energy sector sit on her Department's climate change planning policy statement sounding board. [159341]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 29 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 644-45W, to the hon. Member for Chesterfield (Paul Holmes).

Renewable Energy: Yorkshire and Humberside

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) for what reasons she has struck out the draft Merton rule policy requiring 10 per cent. onsite renewable energy in all major new developments from the Yorkshire and Humber regional spatial strategy; [159348]

(2) what her Department's assessment is of the effect of ending the application of the existing Merton rule in the Yorkshire and Humber regional spatial strategy on those individual local planning authorities wishing to use the rule; [161323]

(3) for what reasons she did not accept the independent panel's recommendations that Yorkshire and the Humber should have a minimum region-wide 10 per cent. on-site renewables planning requirement for all major new developments; [161325]

(4) what events and conferences *(a)* she and *(b)* other Ministers from her Department have addressed relating to (i) the construction and housebuilding industry and (ii) the renewable energy industry since July 2006. [161360]

Yvette Cooper: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Rescue Services: West Yorkshire

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what responsibilities West Yorkshire fire service has in response to water rescue; and if she will make a statement. [159983]

Mr. Dhanda: Fire and rescue authorities have a general power to respond to emergencies under Section 11 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004: this encompasses responding to calls for assistance for water rescue.

Fire and rescue authorities have duties to conduct risk assessments of their area as part of their integrated risk management planning process, and under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. If they conclude there is a risk in their area of incidents requiring a water rescue capability they may procure resources to respond to that risk. The flexibility in this process allows for local discretion and varying levels of risk between fire and rescue authorities. In practice, West Yorkshire fire and rescue authority does respond to water rescue incidents, of both people and animals.

Rural Areas: Grants

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities provide grants to support rural post offices and rural community development projects. [161851]

John Healey: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Sports: Chorley

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to ensure that a copy of the draft feasibility study and completed feasibility study on a sporting village for Chorley commissioned by the north-west regional development agency is placed in the Library. [160447]

Mr. Dhanda *[holding answer 23 October 2007]:* I have placed a copy of the completed feasibility study in the Library of the House.

Waste Management: Fees and Charges

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to prevent waste collection authorities from making charges additional to council tax for providing bin bags. [157648]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

The Environmental Protection Act 1990, section 46, allows waste collection authorities to require occupiers to place waste for collection in receptacles of a kind

and number specified. Bin bags are considered a 'receptacle' under the Act. Waste collection authorities may:

(a) provide the receptacles free of charge;

(b) provide the receptacles and ask the occupier to pay for them;

(c) require the occupier to provide the receptacles himself if he does not agree to pay for them within a specified period, or;

(d) require the occupier to provide the receptacles himself from the outset.

TREASURY

British Telecom: Fees and Charges

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the impact on social exclusion of British Telecom's recent decision to make additional charges for payment methods other than direct debit. [161663]

Kitty Ussher: The independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), announced on 6 June that it would carry out a full review of communications providers' additional charges. The review covers charges for non-direct debit payments as well as other additional charges including late payment, restoration of service and early termination fees. It covers fixed and mobile operators and pay TV services.

The review is examining consumers' awareness of and attitude to these types of charges. The review will consider whether additional charges are sufficiently transparent, whether the charges or their levels are unfair and what action, if any, is necessary. Ofcom expects to announce the conclusions of its review by the end of the year and progress may be monitored on its website:

www.ofcom.org.uk

Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the replies from HM Revenue and Customs of 15 October and 16 October to the letters from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire on his constituents, what his policy is on the maximum time required by HM Revenue and Customs to reply to correspondence from hon. Members. [161248]

David Tredinnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to reduce the four month period taken by the Tax Credit Office to reply to written enquiries by hon. and right hon. Members on behalf of their constituents. [161798]

Jane Kennedy: Although it is HM Revenue and Customs practice to reply to the majority of letters from right hon. and hon. Members within three weeks, following the administrative issue I referred to in my statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 62-63WS, some parts of HMRC's tax credits business have, unfortunately, been subject to delays. HMRC regret this and will continue to try to deal with all cases as quickly as they can.

These delays are a result of HMRC having to look again at cases potentially affected by the procedural error and to ensure that households/individuals affected by the error are not given incorrect advice in advance of their award being reviewed.

The three months indicated in the recent letter to the hon. Member was intended to be helpful and indicate the latest date by which HMRC hoped to have resolved the enquiry.

Death: Nutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many deaths there were with an *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary diagnosis of (i) malnutrition and (ii) nutritional anaemias in each year since 1997. [161719]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 30 October 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths there were with a (a) primary and (b) secondary diagnosis of (i) malnutrition and (ii) nutritional anaemias in each year since 1997. (161719)

The latest year for which figures are available is 2005. The table below shows the number of deaths from 1997 to 2005 where malnutrition or nutritional anaemias were either the underlying cause of death, or were mentioned anywhere on the death certificate. The definition of malnutrition used includes deaths from 'effects of hunger'.

Number of deaths where malnutrition and effects of hunger, or nutritional anaemias,[1] were the underlying cause of death, or were mentioned on the death certificate, England and Wales, 1997 to 2005[2]

	Malnutrition and effects of hunger		*Nutritional anaemias*	
	Underlying cause of death	*Mentioned on the death certificate*	*Underlying cause of death*	*Mentioned on the death certificate*
1997	56	238	92	638
1998	51	221	72	554
1999	46	271	84	517
2000	46	239	52	482
2001	57	258	66	411
2002	72	296	52	409
2003	73	286	64	430
2004	57	276	61	423
2005	66	276	64	420

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) for the years 1997 to 2000, and Tenth Revision (ICD-IO). Codes selected were:
Malnutrition—ICD-9 260-263, ICD-IO E40-E46
Effects of hunger—ICD-9 N994.2, T73.0
Nutritional anaemias—ICD-9 280-281, ICD-IO D50-D53
[2] Figures are for deaths occurring in each calendar year.

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what departmental budget items have been reclassified, under Consolidated Budgeting Guidance, following Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 decisions; and what the *(a)* former and *(b)* new (i) classification and (ii) sum budgeted is in each case. [160420]

Angela Eagle: No items within the Treasury Group's budget were reclassified as part of the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review.

Departments: Complaints

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints about *(a)* his Department and *(b)* HM Revenue and Customs were received from members of the public by his Department in 2006-07. [160256]

Angela Eagle: H M Treasury and H M Revenue and Customs do not maintain records in the way requested and the information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Conferences

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was spent from the public purse by his Department and its agencies on organising conferences to be held by them that were subsequently cancelled in each of the last three years. [159022]

Angela Eagle: Defining cancelled conferences as events with more than 100 planned attendees, none of the Chancellor's departments had any cancellation costs in the last three financial years, except as follows:

£000

	Office of Government Commerce	*OGCbuying solutions, joint with DEFRA*
2004-05	6	—
2005-06	10	—
2006-07	—	27

On 7 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 708W, the Financial Secretary to the Treasury provided information on the cost of cancellations by HM Revenue and Customs. That answer included events with no minimum number of attendees, and none of the events were planned to include more than 100 attendees.

Departments: Legislation

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many regulations his Department has *(a)* brought forward and *(b)* revoked over the last 12 months. [158731]

Angela Eagle: In the past year, the information is as follows:

(a) the Treasury has made 44 sets of regulations, and amended 52 existing regulations, in many cases revoking provisions of those existing regulations in the process; and

(b) the Treasury has revoked eight sets of regulations in their entirety.

The Treasury's Simplification Plan 2006 outlined 22 simplification measures including a regulatory reform order (RRO) to enable the FSA to make minor changes to its consultation procedures on guidance and make the variation of permissions (VOP) process less time consuming, resulting in savings of between £7.5 and £9.3 million per year for business.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any of his Department's special advisers have declared a conflict of interest. [160789]

Angela Eagle: Special advisers are appointed under the terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract for Special Advisers, a copy of which is available in the Library of the House.

Departments: Publications

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will place in the Library copies of the last 12 editions of the staff magazines for his Department and each of its agencies; [153964]

(2) if he will place in the Library copies of the last 12 editions of his Department's staff magazine. [159061]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 23 October 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend, the former Financial Secretary to the Treasury (John Healey) on 5 February 2007, *Official Report*, column 737W.

Dietary Supplements: Channel Islands

David Tredinnick: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the Exchequer of low value consignment relief made available to businesses based in the Channel Islands for the import into the United Kingdom of food supplements and herbal remedies; and if he will make a statement. [161795]

Jane Kennedy: No estimate has been made.

Financial Markets

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which of the parties to the tripartite agreement are to carry out a review of their actions during the recent international financial market turbulence. [159270]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 18 October 2007]:* The Chancellor informed the House on 11 October, *Official Report*, column 463W, of the

"need to review how the [tripartite] framework has operated and put in place whatever practical improvements are needed".

The Financial Services Authority and the Bank of England have announced that they will be reviewing the lessons. The Chancellor has announced his intention to evaluate options in the light of these reviews and to publish proposals in the new year.

HM Revenue and Customs: Drug Seizures

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what factors underlie changes in the quantities of class A drugs *(a)* seized by HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* reaching UK streets in each year since 2003-04; and if he will make a statement. [157245]

Angela Eagle: The information is as follows.

(a) There are a wide variety of factors that can underlie change in the quantities of Class A drugs

seized each year. These include the volume of Class A drugs being targeted on the UK by traffickers, changes in the tactics and opening of new drug routes by traffickers in response to law enforcement activity, and volumes of production in source countries. Since 2003-04, HM Revenue and Customs have seized the following quantities of drugs.

Kilogrammes

Financial year	*Heroin*	*Cocaine*	*Ecstasy*	*Cannabis*
2006-07	527	2,368	1,212	62,966
2005-06	1,057	5,798	468	41,611
2004-05	1,613	8,606	740	57,504
2003-04	1,626	20,727	1,245	57,617

The figures for 2006-07 represent the results of HM Revenue & Customs (HMRC) activity at the UK frontier. They do not include seizures made in those areas of the Department that were transferred to the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) on 1 April 2006, such as investigation and intelligence relating to Class 'A' drugs.

(b) Factors influencing the quantities of drugs reaching the streets will include demand and law enforcement effectiveness. The creation of SOCA in 2006, and the work to improve police capability on protective services are important here and the Government are currently consulting on a new national drugs strategy.

Inheritance Tax

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many estates which were charged inheritance tax were the estates of widows or widowers in each year since 1997; and of these how many were valued as being between the value of the inheritance tax lower threshold and twice the value of the inheritance tax lower threshold. [160521]

Jane Kennedy: Information on the number of estates paying IHT is published on the HMRC website at Table 1.4

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/tax_receipts/tablel-4.pdf.

Information on the number of widows or widowers paying IHT is not available in the format requested.

Minimum Wage

Andrew George: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in *(a)* St. Ives, Cornwall, *(b)* West Cornwall and Isles of Scilly constituency of St Ives, *(c)* Cornwall and *(d)* the UK earn the minimum wage; and what percentage of the population in work each figure represents. [161878]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 30 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people earn the minimum wage in (a) St Ives, Cornwall, (b) West Cornwall and Isles of Scilly constituency of St Ives, (c) Cornwall and (d) the UK; and what percentage of the population in work each figure represents. (161878)

Estimates for the number of jobs paid at the national minimum wage in the UK are not available. However, I attach a table showing estimates of the number of jobs, and percentage of the UK workforce, who were paid less than the national minimum wage in April 2006 in the UK. I also attach a table showing the number of jobs earning less than the national minimum wage by Government Office Region. This is the lowest geographical breakdown available for estimates of the number of jobs paid below the national minimum wage.

The Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), carried out in April each year, is the most comprehensive source of earnings information in the United Kingdom. It is a one per cent sample of all employees who are members of pay-as-you-earn (PAYE) schemes.

A guide to measuring low pay and associated articles can be found on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=5837

Number of jobs paid below the national minimum wage, UK

	2006	
	Number (Thousand)	*Percentage*
Full-time	162	0.9
Part-time	174	2.6
All jobs	336	1.3

Estimates of UK jobs paid below minimum wage by Government Office Region, 2006

Government office region	*Thousand*	*Percentage*
North East	16	1.6
North West (including Merseyside)	36	1.3
Yorks and Humber	27	1.3
East Midlands	29	1.6
West Midlands	33	1.4
Eastern	33	1.4
London	23	0.7
South East	41	1.2
South West	33	1.6
Wales	15	1.3
Scotland	41	1.8
Northern Ireland	10	1.3
All[1]	336	1.3

[1] 2006 data are for those aged 16 and over.

Source:

Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings, Office for National Statistics.

Northern Rock

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his guarantee given to savers in Northern Rock applies to local authorities who are wholesale investors with Northern Rock. [157699]

Kitty Ussher: I refer the hon. Member to the letter sent by the Chancellor to the Chairman of both the Treasury Select Committee and the Public Accounts Committee on 20 September 2007, a copy of which was placed in the Library of the House.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer by what mechanism he has calculated the amount to be paid by Northern Rock for the guarantee given by the Government to that company's depositors. [158708]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* I refer the hon. Member to the letter the Chancellor wrote to the Treasury Select Committee and Public Accounts Committee on 11 October.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had about the treatment for accounting purposes of the guarantee given to Northern Rock depositors. [158709]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* The Chancellor has written to the Public Accounts Committee to explain the provision of the Government's guarantee arrangements as set out on 20 September and how these were extended on 9 October. Both letters confirmed the provision of a loan facility by the Bank of England.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy to ensure that the purchaser of Northern Rock plc fully funds the existing and future liabilities of the employees' pension schemes. [159897]

Kitty Ussher: This is a matter for the trustees of the relevant pension schemes, the company and the pensions regulator.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he and his officials have made of the maximum potential liability of *(a)* the Government and *(b)* the Bank of England for Northern Rock employees' pensions if Northern Rock plc (i) enters administration, (ii) is taken into public ownership by the Bank of England and (iii) is sold at a discount to its net asset value. [159898]

Kitty Ussher: At the request of the company the Government have put in place guarantee arrangements to protect certain deposits in and certain uncollaterlised wholesale borrowing by Northern Rock plc. and the Bank of England is providing loan facilities. These arrangements will allow the company to continue to pursue all its strategic options.

Mrs. Hodgson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the future operational effectiveness and financial security of the Northern Rock Foundation. [161564]

Kitty Ussher: The Government have received a number of representations on the future of the Northern Rock Foundation.

The Government fully recognise the important contribution and work that the foundation has carried out to improve the conditions of people disadvantaged by age, infirmity, poverty or other circumstances, especially in the North East. At the request of the company the Government have put in place guarantee arrangements to protect deposits in Northern Rock plc and the Bank of England is providing loan facilities. These arrangements will allow the company to continue to pursue all its strategic options.

Office for National Statistics: Redundancy

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many redundancies the closure of the London Office of National Statistics is expected to create; what race equality impact assessment his Department has made of the closure; and what steps his Department is taking to ensure that staff with the necessary skills to maintain the quality of UK official statistics may be recruited outside London. [161676]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 30 October 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question to the Chancellor of the Exchequer asking how many redundancies the closure of the London Office of National Statistics is expected to create; what race equality impact assessment his Department has made of the closure; and what steps his Department is taking to ensure that staff with the necessary skills to maintain the quality of UK official statistics may be recruited outside of London. (161676)

The ONS plans to relocate much of its statistical work from London to its offices in Newport and Titchfield follows the recommendations made in The Independent Review of Public Sector Location published by Sir Michael Lyons in March 2004. A subsequent target to relocate 850 posts out of London and the South East by April 2010 was set as part of the 2004 Spending Review.

So far ONS has relocated 347 full time equivalent (FTE) post out of London and the South East with a further 74 FTEs having moved from London to Titchfield. ONS has specific redeployment strategies in place, using the Cabinet Office protocols, to manage the reduction of staff and a dedicated team has been established to assist staff find opportunities elsewhere in other government offices. By working closely with the Cabinet Office and Trade Unions, ONS are committed to doing everything possible to avoid or minimise the need for compulsory redundancies for those people who wish to continue their careers in the Civil Service.

ONS completed a Race Equality Impact Assessment in 2004, this assessment was updated in 2006.

The work is moving to established offices in Newport and Titchfield which already have a broad base of statistical skills. ONS has a comprehensive risk management strategy in place aimed at maintaining the quality of its statistical outputs. The risks are under constant review and ONS will, if necessary, adjust the pace of relocation to minimise risk to key economic and social statistics. Many key outputs have already relocated from London without loss of quality. Key economic and social statistics such as the Consumer and Retail Price Indices, Social Trends and Labour Market statistics are now produced in Newport.

Staff turnover in London is traditionally much higher than in Newport, there is more risk of losing key skills in the capital. ONS has had significant success in their recruitment campaigns in Newport and Titchfield and are confident that they will meet recruitment targets.

Population

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what central assumptions his Department makes in its projections for *(a)* mean and *(b)* median (i) fertility, (ii) average age at marriage and (iii) marriage rates for each gender. [161835]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 30 October 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question regarding the central assumptions made in projections for (a) mean and (b) median (i) fertility, (ii) average age at marriage and (iii) marriage rates for each gender. (161835).

Assumptions of fertility rates are required for national population projections. The most recent national population projections, based on the population at the middle of 2006, were published on 23 October 2007. Details of the central fertility assumptions for the UK and its constituent countries are available at:

http://www.gad.gov.uk/Demography_Data/Populationy2006/methodology/fertass.asp

Projections of the population by legal marital status are only produced at England and Wales level. The most recent population projections by marital status are based on the population at the middle of 2003 and were published in March 2005. Details of the marriage rate assumptions are available at:

http://www.gad.gov.uk/Demography_Data/Marital_status_projections/2003/marriage_assumptions.asp

It would require further work to calculate projections of the average age at marriage consistent with the marriage rate assumptions used for the 2003-based marital status projections. This information could be provided at a later date.

Pre-Budget Report 2007

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when it was decided that the title of the 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review would be Meeting the aspirations of the British people. [159066]

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the printing costs were of *(a)* the 2007 Pre-Budget Report, *(b)* the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review main document and *(c)* the 2007 Budget Report; [159915]

(2) on what date and at what time printing began for *(a)* the 2007 Pre-Budget Report, *(b)* the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review main document and *(c)* the 2007 Budget Report; [159916]

(3) if he will place in the Library a copy of a draft from before 1 October of his Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review speech. [160077]

Andy Burnham: It has been the practice of successive Governments not to release drafts of official documents, nor to provide a commentary on drafting or production processes.

The 2007 pre-Budget report (PBR) and comprehensive spending review (CSR) is a single document, the printing costs of which have yet to be confirmed. The document was published on 9 October. The approximate cost associated with the printing of the Budget 2007 document was £60,000 (excluding VAT).

As is typically the case for all Budgets, pre-Budget reports and spending reviews, the printing of the documentation accompanying the 2007 PBR and CSR started around two weeks ahead of the publication date. The printing of the main document began in the final days ahead of the publication date.

Pregnant Women: Nutrition

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the annual cost of the proposed payment to pregnant women in respect of healthy diets. [161746]

Jane Kennedy: The grant will provide financial support to all expectant mothers in recognition of the importance of a healthy lifestyle including diet during the final weeks of pregnancy.

Based on an assumption that the proposed Health in Pregnancy Grant will be a one-off payment of £190, the estimated annual cost is £160 million in 2009-10 and £130 million in each subsequent year. The estimated annual cost is higher in the first year as there will be more claims in that year, from those women in their final weeks of pregnancy at April 2009, who satisfy the entitlement conditions on the date of introduction.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which aspects of the 2006-07 policy review were adopted in the final version of the Comprehensive Spending Review. [160037]

Andy Burnham: Together with a wider process of analysis and external engagement, the 2006-07 policy reviews informed the broad priorities reflected in the departmental budgets and public service agreements set by the 2007 comprehensive spending review (CSR). The detailed policy ideas emerging from the reviews are being considered by relevant Departments as part of their ongoing policy development over the course of the 2007 CSR period.

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the projected real terms percentage annual increase in public expenditure per capita is *(a)* in total and *(b)* for each Government Department taking account of anticipated population growth over the current Comprehensive Spending Review period; [160835]

(2) what the projected real terms percentage annual increase in public expenditure is *(a)* in total and *(b)* for each Government Department above the level needed to keep pace with anticipated population growth over the current Comprehensive Spending Review period. [160836]

Mr. Darling: Table 3.1 of the pre-Budget report and Comprehensive Spending Review (Cm7227) sets out real growth in departmental expenditure limits in total and by Department.

Population was identified as on one of the long term factors that formed part of the analysis underpinning the CSR, published in "Long Term Challenges and Opportunities for the UK: Analysis for the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review" in November 2006. The latest population projections, which are consistent with the range of assumptions in the CSR, are available on the Government Actuary's Department website at:

http://www.gad.gov.uk/Demography_Data/Population.

Regional Procurement Bodies

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the name and address of each of the regional procurement bodies. [158217]

Angela Eagle: There are a number of purchasing consortia which are run by local authorities; these operate on a sub-regional, regional, and cross-regional basis. We do not hold this information centrally. However, the Society of Procurement Officers (SOPO) maintains a comprehensive list of member authorities. The Society can be contacted through their website at http://www.sopo.org.uk

Collaborative procurement organisations within the NHS consist of NHS trusts and primary care trusts. These are normally within the same strategic health authority or regional boundary, collaborating to make the most effective procurement and supply chain decisions, in conjunction with NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency and other organisations including Office of Government Commerce (OGC) and regional developments agencies, in order to provide best value for stakeholders within their respective health economies.

Smuggling: Drugs

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the impact of the Law Enforcement Business Plan on seizures of controlled drugs and illegal firearms smuggled into the UK made in *(a)* the south west region and *(b)* across the UK since it was implemented. [155846]

Angela Eagle: The Law Enforcement Business Plan was published by the former HM Customs and Excise in 2003 to focus operational activities on HMCE's strategic law enforcement priorities, namely tobacco, oils, alcohol and Class A drugs. No assessment has been made of the impact of the plan on seizures of controlled drugs or illegal firearms. HM Revenue and Customs continues to work closely with SOCA, the Home Office and other key partners to tackle threats to the UK from a wide variety of prohibited and restricted goods.

Taxation: Defaulters

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many investigations of alleged tax defaulters begun by HM Revenue and Customs and its predecessors in each of the last 10 years have resulted in *(a)* proceedings being issued and *(b)* a conviction. [159817]

The Solicitor-General: I have been asked to reply.

Revenue and Customs Prosecutions Office (RCPO) was created as an independent Government Department on 18 April 2005.

The following table lists the number of tax prosecutions we have brought since 1998. It should be noted that the number of cases does not necessarily have a one to one correlation with the number of HMRC investigations undertaken.

	Number of cases	*Number of cases resulting in convictions*	*Type of case*
2007-08[1]	132	124	VAT and former IR crime group taxes cases
2006-07	251	227	VAT and former IR crime group taxes cases
2005-06	[2]—	[2]—	—
2004-05	[2]—	[2]—	—
2003-04	79	69	VAT only
2002-03	90	74	VAT only
2001-02	97	62	VAT only
2000-01	129	88	VAT only
1999-2000	94	73	VAT only
1998-99	96	74	VAT only

[1] 2007-08 includes figures for April to September (six months).
[2] This data could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Taxation: Domicile

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assumptions he made in estimating the revenue raised from Modernisation of residence and domicile taxation in table B4, page 164 of the pre-Budget Report about *(a)* the number of non-domiciles who would pay the new £30,000 charge, *(b)* the gain from non-domiciles who choose to bring their tax affairs on-shore and *(c)* other factors for (i) 2009-10 and (ii) 2010-11. [161691]

Jane Kennedy: I very much regret that it has not proved possible to answer the hon. Gentleman's question, which first appeared on 26 October, before Parliament is prorogued later today.

Teenage Pregnancy: Peterborough

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many conceptions among girls *(a)* 18 years old, *(b)* 17 years old, *(c)* 16 years old, *(d)* 15 years old and *(e)* 14 years old and under occurred in (i) Peterborough constituency and (ii) Peterborough City Council area in each year since 1997. [161875]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 30 October 2007:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many conceptions among girls (a) 18 years old, (b) 17 years old, (c) 16 years old, (d) 15 years old, (e) 14 years old and under occurred in (i) Peterborough constituency and (ii) Peterborough City Council in each year since 1997. (161875)

Numbers of conceptions in Peterborough UA for the years 1997-2005 (the most recent year for which figures are available) are shown in the table below. Figures for 2005 are provisional.

Figures on under 16 and under 18 conceptions are estimated using the number of conceptions that resulted in a live birth, stillbirth or legal termination.

Information on conceptions is routinely published for local authorities and strategic health authorities. Figures cannot be provided by Parliamentary Constituency because of the risk of

disclosing individual's information, due to small differences between the Parliamentary Constituency and local authority boundaries.

ONS does not publish figures by single year of age below the age of 16 by either local or health authority because of the risk of disclosing individual's information. Figures for girls aged 16, 17 and 18 are not readily available.

Number of conceptions to girls aged under 16 and under 18, Peterborough UA 1997-2005

	Under 18	Under 16
1997	161	26
1998	185	34
1999	158	24
2000	147	27
2001	167	31
2002	179	32
2003	155	32
2004	175	32
2005[1]	184	40

[1] Conceptions for 2005 are provisional.

Unemployment: Young People

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the rate of youth unemployment was in *(a)* each London constituency and *(b)* each Government region in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [161767]

Angela Eagle: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the National Statistician, who has been asked to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 30 October 2007:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the rate of youth unemployment was in (a) each London constituency and (b) each Government region in each of the last five years. (161767)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles statistics of unemployment for local areas from the annual Labour Force Survey (LFS) and the Annual Population Survey (APS) following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1 provides estimates of the rates of youth unemployment in each London parliamentary constituency and each Government Office region for the 12 month periods ending in February for 2003 and 2004 from the annual LFS, and for the 12 month periods ending in March for 2005 to 2007, from the APS.

As these estimates are for a subset of the population in small geographical areas, they are based on small sample sizes, and are therefore subject to large margins of uncertainty. For the constituencies, the sample sizes are not sufficient to give an accurate estimate of even the direction of the change over the period.

ONS also compiles statistics for local areas of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA). Table 2 shows the annual average number of JSA claimants aged 18 to 24, resident in each London constituency, and each Government Office region for 2002 to 2006. For constituencies only the numbers of claimants are available, as population by age group for constituencies are not available. For Government Office regions the numbers of claimants and these numbers as percentages of the 18 to 24 year old populations are provided.

Table 1: Youth unemployment rates: London parliamentary constituencies and Government office regions

	Youth unemployment rate (Percentage) 12 months ending:				
	February		March		
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
London parliamentary constituency					
Barking	21	19	42	12	21
Battersea	49	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	33
Beckenham	[1]—	[1]—	19	[1]—	23
Bethnal Green and Bow	14	22	20	23	17
Bexleyheath and Crayford	8	[1]—	13	[1]—	10
Brent East	20	8	[1]—	16	50
Brent North	24	35	14	29	60
Brent South	14	19	17	24	21
Brentford and Isleworth	14	[1]—	20	15	22
Bromley and Chislehurst	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	15
Camberwell and Peckham	28	41	48	18	23
Carshalton and Wallington	13	25	12	5	[1]—
Chingford and Woodford Green	15	[1]—	17	15	[1]—
Chipping Barnet	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Cities of London and Westminster	25	9	13	9	[1]—
Croydon Central	23	10	16	16	36
Croydon North	28	22	24	31	13
Croydon South	12	13	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Dagenham	20	15	27	21	28
Dulwich and West Norwood	25	12	22	[1]—	38
Ealing North	16	25	27	18	33
Ealing Southall	[1]—	18	10	32	[1]—
Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush	14	30	[1]—	23	19
East Ham	30	21	18	16	25
Edmonton	16	[1]—	[1]—	49	[1]—
Eltham	26	[1]—	20	[1]—	25
Enfield North	24	12	[1]—	29	18

Table 1: Youth unemployment rates: London parliamentary constituencies and Government office regions

	Youth unemployment rate (Percentage) 12 months ending:				
	February			March	
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Enfield, Southgate	[1]—	[1]—	35	31	[1]—
Erith and Thamesmead	[1]—	27	9	25	14
Feltham and Heston	13	28	14	10	21
Finchley and Golders Green	29	15	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Greenwich and Woolwich	26	[1]—	34	23	26
Hackney North and Stoke Newington	13	21	50	[1]—	35
Hackney South and Shoreditch	19	18	[1]—	34	25
Hammersmith and Fulham	12	10	29	20	21
Hampstead and Highgate	9	12	[1]—	21	15
Harrow East	23	33	30	30	15
Harrow West	22	19	[1]—	19	[1]—
Hayes and Harlington	[1]—	[1]—	33	37	27
Hendon	[1]—	[1]—	48	[1]—	14
Holborn and St. Pancras	23	35	16	[1]—	26
Hornchurch	[1]—	14	[1]—	17	10
Hornsey and Wood Green	27	18	26	21	[1]—
Ilford North	23	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Ilford South	11	[1]—	23	26	40
Islington North	12	22	14	22	18
Islington South and Finsbury	22	[1]—	24	18	32
Kensington and Chelsea	11	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	30
Kingston and Surbiton	8	12	23	25	15
Lewisham East	35	28	22	[1]—	31
Lewisham West	16	29	31	[1]—	29
Lewisham, Deptford	14	27	29	23	15
Leyton and Wanstead	23	40	13	38	34
Mitcham and Morden	20	36	27	32	28
North Southwark and Bermondsey	18	16	23	32	22
Old Bexley and Sidcup	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	17	20
Orpington	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	21	[1]—
Poplar and Canning Town	32	9	26	35	37
Putney	21	10	[1]—	[1]—	25
Regent's Park and Kensington North	8	24	21	26	21
Richmond Park	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	11	[1]—
Romford	[1]—	10	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Ruislip—Northwood	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	24	[1]—
Streatham	15	21	24	17	12
Sutton and Cheam	[1]—	12	16	19	14
Tooting	12	22	13	31	28
Tottenham	28	38	30	29	25
Twickenham	[1]—	[1]—	9	11	16
Upminster	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	45	13
Uxbridge	[1]—	[1]—	11	29	17
Vauxhall	16	29	30	29	25
Walthamstow	12	[1]—	35	20	18
West Ham	21	22	18	[1]—	32
Wimbledon	13	[1]—	15	[1]—	[1]—
Government office region					
North East	15	17	15	17	16
North West	13	12	13	14	15
Yorkshire and the Humber	12	13	12	14	14
East Midlands	11	12	11	13	15
West Midlands	14	14	14	14	15
London parliamentary constituency					
East Midlands	10	9	10	10	12
London	15	16	18	20	20

Table 1: Youth unemployment rates: London parliamentary constituencies and Government office regions

	Youth unemployment rate (Percentage) 12 months ending:				
	February		March		
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
South East	10	9	10	11	11
South West	9	9	9	10	11

[1] Sample size too small to provide estimates.

Notes:

1. Estimates are subject to sampling variability.
2. Changes in the estimates over time should be treated with caution.

Source:

Annual Labour Force Survey; Annual Population Survey.

Table 2: Youth JSA claimants: London parliamentary constituencies and Government office regions

	(Claiming over 12 months)[1] Annual average									
	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Number	Rate[2]	Number	Rate[2]	Number	Rate[2]	Number	Rate[2]	Number	Rate[2]
London parliamentary constituency										
Barking	415	n/a	490	n/a	530	n/a	610	n/a	615	n/a
Battersea	430	n/a	465	n/a	450	n/a	440	n/a	425	n/a
Beckenham	265	n/a	295	n/a	320	n/a	375	n/a	315	n/a
Bethnal Green and Bow	1,120	n/a	1,220	n/a	1,250	n/a	1,380	n/a	1,465	n/a
Bexleyheath and Crayford	190	n/a	225	n/a	260	n/a	290	n/a	330	n/a
Brent East	600	n/a	620	n/a	650	n/a	645	n/a	705	n/a
Brent North	305	n/a	350	n/a	370	n/a	375	n/a	360	n/a
Brent South	710	n/a	755	n/a	835	n/a	840	n/a	865	n/a
Brentford and Isleworth	305	n/a	390	n/a	395	n/a	420	n/a	430	n/a
Bromley and Chislehurst	210	n/a	235	n/a	255	n/a	270	n/a	275	n/a
Camberwell and Peckham	890	n/a	980	n/a	910	n/a	945	n/a	925	n/a
Carshalton and Wallington	205	n/a	255	n/a	265	n/a	355	n/a	390	n/a
Chingford and Woodford Green	255	n/a	275	n/a	290	n/a	315	n/a	330	n/a
Chipping Barnet	245	n/a	305	n/a	265	n/a	305	n/a	335	n/a
Cities of London and Westminster	420	n/a	430	n/a	405	n/a	475	n/a	435	n/a
Croydon Central	505	n/a	550	n/a	515	n/a	580	n/a	590	n/a
Croydon North	670	n/a	745	n/a	715	n/a	805	n/a	795	n/a
Croydon South	195	n/a	220	n/a	215	n/a	235	n/a	275	n/a
Dagenham	380	n/a	450	n/a	540	n/a	645	n/a	675	n/a
Dulwich and West Norwood	700	n/a	700	n/a	675	n/a	705	n/a	675	n/a
Ealing North	395	n/a	410	n/a	435	n/a	490	n/a	515	n/a
Ealing Southall	635	n/a	675	n/a	635	n/a	645	n/a	685	n/a
Ealing, Acton and Shepherd's Bush	575	n/a	625	n/a	620	n/a	675	n/a	655	n/a
East Ham	795	n/a	875	n/a	880	n/a	995	n/a	1,190	n/a
Edmonton	520	n/a	645	n/a	750	n/a	795	n/a	915	n/a
Eltham	415	n/a	430	n/a	465	n/a	520	n/a	600	n/a
Enfield North	390	n/a	510	n/a	530	n/a	595	n/a	680	n/a
Enfield, Southgate	320	n/a	370	n/a	395	n/a	365	n/a	390	n/a
Erith and Thamesmead	610	n/a	660	n/a	715	n/a	770	n/a	795	n/a
Feltham and Heston	380	n/a	445	n/a	465	n/a	495	n/a	550	n/a
Finchley and Golders Green	335	n/a	395	n/a	385	n/a	390	n/a	375	n/a
Greenwich and Woolwich	750	n/a	795	n/a	780	n/a	820	n/a	810	n/a
Hackney North and Stoke Newington	815	n/a	865	n/a	825	n/a	875	n/a	915	n/a
Hackney South and Shoreditch	925	n/a	1,040	n/a	1,065	n/a	1,165	n/a	1,155	n/a
Hammersmith and Fulham	475	n/a	570	n/a	560	n/a	560	n/a	570	n/a
Hampstead and Highgate	390	n/a	435	n/a	435	n/a	445	n/a	450	n/a
Harrow East	335	n/a	370	n/a	425	n/a	445	n/a	450	n/a
Harrow West	245	n/a	295	n/a	310	n/a	340	n/a	305	n/a
Hayes and Harlington	365	n/a	470	n/a	460	n/a	535	n/a	565	n/a
Hendon	475	n/a	550	n/a	550	n/a	580	n/a	545	n/a

Table 2: Youth JSA claimants: London parliamentary constituencies and Government office regions

(Claiming over 12 months)[1]

Annual average

	2002		2003		2004		2005		2006	
	Number	*Rate[2]*	*Number*	*Rate[2]*	*Number*	*Rate[2]*	*Number*	*Rate[2]*	*Number*	*Rate[2]*
Holborn and St. Pancras	680	n/a	725	n/a	690	n/a	725	n/a	705	n/a
Hornchurch	170	n/a	195	n/a	195	n/a	225	n/a	255	n/a
Hornsey and Wood Green	610	n/a	665	n/a	685	n/a	710	n/a	785	n/a
Ilford North	290	n/a	320	n/a	320	n/a	370	n/a	390	n/a
Ilford South	600	n/a	635	n/a	690	n/a	800	n/a	880	n/a
Islington North	690	n/a	785	n/a	830	n/a	850	n/a	895	n/a
Islington South and Finsbury	550	n/a	635	n/a	690	n/a	735	n/a	755	n/a
Kensington and Chelsea	220	n/a	240	n/a	215	n/a	230	n/a	200	n/a
Kingston and Surbiton	190	n/a	240	n/a	275	n/a	305	n/a	270	n/a
Lewisham East	485	n/a	570	n/a	600	n/a	635	n/a	625	n/a
Lewisham West	625	n/a	675	n/a	690	n/a	725	n/a	725	n/a
Lewisham, Deptford	795	n/a	795	n/a	730	n/a	775	n/a	800	n/a
Leyton and Wanstead	530	n/a	575	n/a	625	n/a	605	n/a	675	n/a
Mitcham and Morden	435	n/a	485	n/a	495	n/a	595	n/a	610	n/a
North Southwark and Bermondsey	860	n/a	915	n/a	925	n/a	1,030	n/a	980	n/a
Old Bexley and Sidcup	150	n/a	185	n/a	200	n/a	195	n/a	235	n/a
Orpington	230	n/a	260	n/a	285	n/a	360	n/a	375	n/a
Poplar and Canning Town	1,115	n/a	1,205	n/a	1,295	n/a	1,390	n/a	1,470	n/a
Putney	260	n/a	270	n/a	290	n/a	310	n/a	305	n/a
Regent's Park and Kensington North	690	n/a	750	n/a	690	n/a	750	n/a	780	n/a
Richmond Park	155	n/a	190	n/a	180	n/a	195	n/a	195	n/a
Romford	210	n/a	240	n/a	205	n/a	245	n/a	285	n/a
Ruislip—Northwood	145	n/a	190	n/a	195	n/a	210	n/a	205	n/a
Streatham	755	n/a	790	n/a	725	n/a	785	n/a	760	n/a
Sutton and Cheam	130	n/a	150	n/a	155	n/a	200	n/a	210	n/a
Tooting	425	n/a	440	n/a	440	n/a	460	n/a	425	n/a
Tottenham	1,110	n/a	1,160	n/a	1,285	n/a	1,340	n/a	1,375	n/a
Twickenham	145	n/a	170	n/a	160	n/a	185	n/a	185	n/a
Upminster	180	n/a	200	n/a	205	n/a	245	n/a	280	n/a
Uxbridge	220	n/a	265	n/a	295	n/a	325	n/a	315	n/a
Vauxhall	960	n/a	1,080	n/a	1,060	n/a	1,130	n/a	1,075	n/a
Walthamstow	630	n/a	695	n/a	775	n/a	800	n/a	830	n/a
West Ham	885	n/a	950	n/a	950	n/a	985	n/a	1,065	n/a
Wimbledon	140	n/a	180	n/a	200	n/a	235	n/a	230	n/a
Government office region										
North East	16,920	7.4	16,365	6.9	14,680	6.0	15,235	6.1	16,860	6.6
North West	34,335	5.9	33,785	5.6	30,885	4.9	33,020	5.1	38,655	5.8
Yorkshire and the Humber	24,335	5.4	23,950	5.0	21,485	4.3	23,610	4.6	27,255	5.1
East Midlands	15,460	4.3	15,965	4.3	14,350	3.7	15,705	3.9	18,990	4.6
West Midlands	24,825	5.5	26,265	5.6	25,215	5.2	27,960	5.7	33,400	6.7
East Midlands	13,195	3.1	14,275	3.3	14,310	3.2	16,215	3.6	19,200	4.1
London	35,435	5.0	39,205	5.6	40,030	5.7	43,145	6.1	44,475	6.2
South East	15,310	2.3	16,810	2.5	16,785	2.4	18,730	2.7	22,515	3.2
South West	12,035	3.1	12,010	3.0	10,805	2.6	11,950	2.8	14,200	3.2

n/a = Not available.
[1] Computerised claims only.
[2] Percentage of population aged 18 to 24.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus Administrative system.

Written Questions: Costs

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost of answering question 143343 on IT contracts, tabled by the hon. Member for Yeovil (Mr. Laws) on 13 June. [161275]

Angela Eagle: The information to answer the question is not held centrally.

Prior to 2006 HMT procurement was undertaken by HMRC under a service level agreement with HMT. Details of HMT contracts since 2006 are now held on a central database, however that database does not

record the level of detail on competitive tendering and the numbers invited to tender required to answer the question.

Therefore, the time and resource required to identify all relevant information was assessed to exceed the disproportionate cost threshold of £700.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Bail

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress is being made on bail reform in Northern Ireland. [161701]

Mr. Woodward: In the past few years a number of reforms have been made to bail legislation. New powers include the creation of an offence of breach of bail and a police power of entry for actual or likely breaches; police powers to grant 'street bail' and to attach conditions to bail after charge; and improved laws to allow police and court bail to operate more smoothly and continuously. It is also my intention to bring forward powers relating to police bail in the next criminal Justice Order, which will be announced shortly.

Children: Protection

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average length of time taken to complete a protection of children and vulnerable adults check by the Police Service of Northern Ireland was in the latest period for which figures are available. [161043]

Paul Goggins: The PSNI Child/Vulnerable Adult Access Vetting Unit currently receives around 5,000 requests for vetting each week.

Random checks show that vetting checks received are being returned to registered bodies on average within five to six weeks.

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many protection of children and vulnerable adults check requests the Police Service of Northern Ireland received in each of the last three years. [161044]

Paul Goggins: The figures for each of the last three years are approximately:

	Number
2005	130,200
2006	150,300
2007	180,000

The 2007 figure is a projection based on the year to date figure.

Sammy Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many protection of children and vulnerable adults checks are outstanding in Northern Ireland. [161045]

Paul Goggins: There are currently 6,095 vetting checks being processed by PSNI Child/Vulnerable Adult Access Vetting Unit. Figures on the number of checks processed per month are not routinely collected. However, a manual check of records shows that the Unit processed 16,145 checks during the last full calendar month (September 2007).

Included in the figure are those vetting checks that have been forwarded to other police services—for example, Scotland, Isle of Man, the Channel Islands and An Garda Siochana for their input.

Departments: Assets

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what departmental assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; and what the expected revenue from each such sale is. [160356]

Mr. Woodward: The following table illustrates the Northern Ireland Office's assets (excluding its agencies and Executive NDPBs) which are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11.

			£000
Description of asset	*Current net book value (NBV)*	*2007-08 Actuall expected revenue*	*2008-09 to 2010-11* [3] *expected revenue*
Surplus Land	64,498	65,961	—
Office Building and Land	4,800	—	4,800
Residential Properties[1]	6,552	[2]3,308	[3]4,059

[1] The addresses of residential properties have not been provided for security reasons.

[2] The expected revenue of residential properties disposed of in 2007-08 is based on the proceeds received to date, plus the forecast receipts for the remainder of the year.

[3] For the planned disposals in the years 2008-09 to 2010-11 it is assumed that assets will be sold at their net book value. The Department is still finalising details of the actual year each property will be sold in, but further details will be provided in the Department's CSR07 Asset management Strategy which is due to be published in December 2007.

Departments: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland if he will place in the Library a breakdown of his Department's efficiency savings in relation to its Spending Review 2004 (SR04) targets, including *(a)* the efficiency projects in the Department, *(b)* the date on which they were initiated and *(c)* how much each was predicted to contribute to the SR04 target. [160544]

Mr. Woodward: Details of the Northern Ireland Office's efficiency savings in relation to Spending Review 2004 can be seen in the Department's Efficiency Technical Note. A copy has also been placed in the Library.

Departments: Disabled

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which buildings occupied by his Department *(a)* are and *(b)* are not fully accessible to disabled people; and if he will make a statement. [161163]

Mr. Woodward: With the exception of upper floors of Stormont House, which are used to provide overnight accommodation in lieu of hotel rooms for Ministers and officials, all NIO buildings are accessible to disabled people. Should a Minister or official with an ambulant disability be posted to Northern Ireland then reasonable adjustment will be made to Stormont House. Professional advisors are currently assessing whether it is possible to provide a means of access to the upper floors for ambulant disabled people.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether any of his Department's special advisers have declared a conflict of interest. [160779]

Mr. Woodward: Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract For Special Advisers. Copies of the Model Contract are available in the Libraries of the House.

Departments: Older Workers

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each executive agency funded by his Department applied to continue to work beyond state retirement age in the latest year or part thereof for which figures are available; and how many of those applications were successful. [161280]

Paul Goggins: Civil servants who joined prior to 30 July 2007 are allowed to retire at age 60 but have the right to remain in post until age 65, without having to apply to do so. Civil servants who joined after 30 July 2007 are allowed to retire at age 65. At age 65 all staff have the right, under the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006, to apply to continue working.

Until the future Northern Ireland Office policy on the age of retirement has been formally agreed, staff reaching the age of 65 can apply to continue working and will obtain approval on the basis of a six month extension from their 65th birthday.

To date the Northern Ireland Office have seven staff aged beyond 65 and a further 11 staff between the ages of 60 and 65 have applied to continue working beyond the age of 65.

Departments: Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what percentage of questions tabled for answer on a named day received a substantive reply on the day named in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [161341]

Mr. Woodward: From 1 November 2006 to date, the Northern Ireland Office received 297 named day parliamentary questions, of which 51 per cent. (151) received a substantive reply on the day named.

Fireworks

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many licence applications were *(a)* received and *(b)* granted under the Explosives (Fireworks) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002 in each of the years since the Regulations came into operation. [161697]

Paul Goggins: The figures requested are shown in the following table.

	Total issued
2002	[1]1,067
2003	1,362
2004	1,032
2005	907
2006	847
2007	[2]823

[1] The figures for 2002 are from May 2002 to 31 December 2002
[2] The figures for 2007 are from 1 January 2007 to 30 October 2007

Exact figures are not available for applications refused in each year, although the numbers are minimal.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people in Northern Ireland were *(a)* charged with and *(b)* convicted of illegal use of fireworks in each year since 2002. [161698]

Paul Goggins: The number of people charged with offences relating to illegal use of fireworks is not collected centrally. The number of people prosecuted and subsequently convicted of relevant offences is collected and is set out in the following table.

Data cover the calendar years 2002 to 2005 (the latest available year) and are collated on the principal offence rule; therefore only the most serious offence with which an offender is charged is included.

Prosecutions and convictions for the illegal use of fireworks by offence 2002-05[1]

	2002		*2003*		*2004*		*2005*	
	Prosecuted	*Convicted*	*Prosecuted*	*Convicted*	*Prosecuted*	*Convicted*	*Prosecuted*	*Convicted*
Throwing firework	2	2	0	0	0	0	2	2
Possessing firework without a licence	2	2	3	3	6	5	11	10
Possession of prohibited fireworks	4	4	0	0	2	2	3	3
Using fireworks without a licence	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0
Discharge firework near road injuring or endangering person	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	9	8	3	3	9	8	16	15

[1] data do not include: purchasing fireworks without a licence; unlawfully keeping fireworks for sale, and; failing to keep proper records of fireworks sales.

Police: Devolved Matters

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress he is making towards the devolution of policing and criminal justice to the Northern Ireland Assembly. [160622]

Mr. Woodward: The Government have made a firm commitment to be ready to devolve policing and justice in May 2008 as envisaged in the St. Andrews Agreement, should the Assembly so request. An extensive programme of work is in place to ensure that this can be delivered.

Police: Pay

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much overtime was paid to Police Service of Northern Ireland *(a)* regular officers, *(b)* full-time reserve officers and *(c)* civilian support staff in each financial year since 2004-05. [161693]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Police overtime costs

			£ million
	Regular Officers	*Full-time reserve*	*Civilian support staff*
2004-05	45.504	7.963	4.298
2005-06	50.333	6.840	4.851
2006-07	46.2	4.446	4.654

Police: Sick Leave

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many Police Service of Northern Ireland *(a)* regular and *(b)* full-time reserve officers are on paid sick leave; [161694]

(2) how much was spent on mandatory leadership training in his Department in each financial year since 2003-04. [161695]

Paul Goggins: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Sexual Offences: Northern Ireland

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what progress has been made on the establishment of a sexual assault referral centre in Northern Ireland. [161692]

Paul Goggins: Responsibility for the establishment of a Sexual Assault Referral Centre in Northern Ireland is shared between the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and the Northern Ireland Office. PSNI and NIO officials are working closely with colleagues from the DHSSPS to develop such a facility. A number of options have been developed and these are currently under consideration.

HEALTH

Academic Health Sciences Centre

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what definition his Department uses of an academic health sciences centre; and if he will make a statement. [161575]

Mr. Bradshaw: The national health service Next Stage Review Interim Report set out proposals to bring together world class research, teaching and patient care to encourage innovation and deliver exemplary care for patients. It also set out proposals to roll-out Academic Health Science Centres, which do just this, in major teaching centres across the country. This work—including definitions—will be taken forward as part of the next stage of the review.

Accident and Emergency Departments: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many finished admission episodes for patients admitted via accident and emergency under the responsibility of Bexley Primary Care Trust there were in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the average age was of those patients. [160468]

Mr. Bradshaw: The following table shows a count of finished admission episodes (FAE) and mean age for patients admitted via Accident and Emergency (A and E) to national health service hospitals under the responsibility of Bexley Care Trust for 2005-06.

Count of FAE	*Mean age (years)*
14,146	53

Notes:
Emergency admission defined as admission methods 21 and 28:
21 = Emergency: via A and E services, including the casualty department of the provider
28 = Emergency: other means, including patients who arrive via the A and E department of another healthcare provider
FAE
A FAE is the first period of in-patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. Admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.
Ungrossed Data
Figures have not been adjusted for shortfalls in data (i.e. the data are ungrossed).
Data Quality
Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by over 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. The Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
Source:
HES, The Information Centre for health and social care.

Accident and Emergency Departments: Drugs

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many accident and emergency in-patient admissions there were in 2006 for drugs overdoses in England. [161223]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of finished admissions admitted via accident and emergency (A and E) with a primary diagnosis of drugs overdose in England for 2005-06, is shown in the following table. Data for drug overdoses are not defined within one specific hospital diagnosis code. These diagnoses include cases where a drug or substance may have been taken in error, as well as for cases where the patient has taken an overdose of a drug. The data is collected for each financial year, not calendar years.

Count of finished admission episodes via Accident and Emergency for selected primary diagnoses[1]: National Health Service Hospitals, England, 2005-06

ICD-10 Primary diagnosis	*Count of finished admission episodes*
T36	829
T37	330
T38	1,693
T39	45,970
T40	8,082
T41	103
T42	14,491
T43	17,010
T44	1,865
T45	1,851
T46	1,204
T47	416
T48	467
T49	480
T50	7,761
Total	102,552

[1] Primary Diagnoses International Classification of Diseases (ICD-10) codes:

Drug Overdose

T36	Poisoning by systemic antibiotics
T37	Poisoning by other systemic anti-infective and antiparasitics
T38	Poisoning by hormones and their synthetic substitutes and antagonists, not elsewhere classified
T39	Poisoning by nonopiod analgesics, antipyretics and antirheumatics
T40	Poisoning by narcotics and psychodysleptics [hallucinogens]
T41	Poisoning by anaesthetics and therapeutic gases
T42	Poisoning by antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and anti-parkinsonism drugs
T43	Poisoning by psychotropic drugs, not elsewhere classified
T44	Poisoning by drugs primarily affecting the autonomic nervous system
T45	Poisoning by primarily systemic and haematological agents, not elsewhere classified
T46	Poisoning by agents primarily affecting the cardiovascular system
T47	Poisoning by agents primarily affecting the gastrointestinal system
T48	Poisoning by agents primarily acting on smooth and skeletal muscles and the respiratory systems
T49	Poisoning by topical agents primarily affecting skin and mucous membrane and by opthalmological, otorhinolaryngological and dental drugs
T50	Poisoning by diuretics and other and unspecified drugs, medicaments and biological substances.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what action has been taken since 1997 to reduce levels of alcohol misuse. [158301]

Dawn Primarolo: The "Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England" was published in March 2004. It was the first cross Government strategy seeking to reduce harms caused by alcohol. Progress has been made, for example through;

better education and communication through the 'Know Your Limits' binge drinking campaign;

improving health and treatment services through the first national assessment of the need for and availability of alcohol treatment and trailblazer projects involving 57 health and criminal justice sites identifying and advising people whose drinking habits are likely to lead to ill health in the future;

combating alcohol-related crime and disorder through the use of new enforcement powers in the Licensing Act 2003 and Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006; and

work with the alcohol industry to include health information on alcohol labels, set up local partnership schemes such as 'Best Bar None' to promote responsible management of licensed premises, and to set up a new independent charity, the Drinkaware Trust, to promote sensible drinking.

It also contained a commitment to take stock of progress during 2007. This has taken place and next steps to further our objectives are set out in a renewed Strategy which was published in June 2007, titled "Safe, Sensible, Social—Next Steps in the National Alcohol Strategy". Its aim is to focus future action on reducing the types of harm that are of most concern to the public, by reducing crime and ill health caused by alcohol. It aims to increase the public's awareness of the risks associated with excessive consumption and how to get help. "Safe. Sensible. Social", sets out the Government's ambition to achieve significant reductions in the harms and cost of alcohol misuse in England over the next 10 years.

Ambulance Services: Protective Clothing

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 905W to the hon. Member for the Wrekin, what criteria are used to determine necessity for stab proof vests *(a)* in his Department and *(b)* in ambulance trusts. [161751]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not have criteria to determine necessity for stab vests as the decision to provide these is a local matter.

Each NHS ambulance trust will make their own decision, which we expect will be informed by local risk assessments.

Ambulance Services: Standards

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1950W, on ambulance services: standards, what percentage of ambulance trusts achieved the target response times for category *(a)* A and *(b)* B of emergency ambulance dispatches; and if he will place in the Library the performance data for each ambulance trust in each category. [159713]

Mr. Bradshaw: The percentage of ambulance trusts that achieved the target response times for category A and B is shown in the following table. This information has been calculated using the data recorded in tables 5a and 5b of the "Ambulance Services, England 2006-07 Bulletin" which is available in the Library and on the Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/audits-and-performance/ambulance/ambulance-services-england-2006-07

The new ambulance trusts which formed as a result of mergers in 2006 inherited varied positions in terms of operational performance and are taking forward service improvements to ensure that performance is brought up to required standards.

National performance in 2006-07 was as follows:

74.6 per cent. of category A calls received a response within eight minutes.

97.0 per cent. of category A calls received a response within 19 minutes of a request being made for transport.

90.5 per cent. of category B calls received a response within 19 minutes.

Emergency incidents: ambulance services achieving targets[1] by response times and category of call, 2006-07, England

	Category A calls		*Category B calls*
	Response within eight minutes	*Response within 19 minutes*	*Response within 19 minutes*
Total number of ambulance trusts	13	13	13
Number of ambulance trusts achieving targets	8	10	4
Percentage of ambulance trusts achieving targets	61.5	76.9	30.7

[1] *Targets:*
Category A emergencies which are immediately life threatening. Ambulance services are expected to reach 75 per cent. of category A calls within eight minutes and have a vehicle capable of transporting the patient arrive on scene within 19 minutes of a request for transport being made, 95 per cent. of the time.
Category B emergencies which are serious but not immediately life threatening. For category B calls, services should respond to 95 per cent. of incidents, with a vehicle capable of transporting the patient, within 19 minutes.
Source:
Form KA34.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of whether there is a link between the incidence of bovine tuberculosis and the incidence of atypical tuberculosis. [161711]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is not aware of any link between the incidence of bovine tuberculosis and the incidence of human disease caused by non-tuberculosis mycobacteria. The incidence of bovine tuberculosis in humans in the United Kingdom in recent years has remained stable, at less than 1 per cent., of all reported tuberculosis cases.

Central Middlesex Birthing Centre

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost was of building and equipping Central Middlesex Birthing Centre. [157380]

Mr. Bradshaw: This is a matter for the local national health service. However, I am informed by NHS London that the cost of building and equipping Central Middlesex Birthing Centre was approximately £3 million.

Central Middlesex Birthing Centre: Admissions

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the annual number of patients that are likely to be admitted to Central Middlesex Birthing Centre. [157372]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally by the Department of Health.

Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for commissioning health services to meet the needs of the local population. I understand that in September 2007 Brent PCT and North West London Hospitals NHS Trust issued a joint public consultation document—"The future of the Brent Birth Centre". This estimates that around 300 women per annum choose to have their babies at the Brent Birth Centre, also known as the Central Middlesex Birthing Centre.

Children: Cannabis

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children under the age of 16 years sought treatment for cannabis use in *(a)* England, *(b)* the East of England and *(c)* Suffolk in each of the last five years. [161609]

Dawn Primarolo: We do not hold data for the whole of the period requested. Data for 2005-06 and 2006-07, the years for which data are available are contained in the following tables.

2005-06: Main drug of use in treatment—cannabis ages 9 -15

	In treatment		
		Cannabis	
Drug action team (DAT)	*All drugs*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Suffolk	83	49	59

2006-07: Main drug of use in treatment—cannabis ages 9 -15

	In treatment		
		Cannabis	
DAT	*All drugs*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Suffolk	106	57	54

2005-06: Ages 9-15 main drug cannabis

	In treatment		
		Cannabis	
Region	*All drugs*	*Number*	*Percentage*
London	1,188	787	66
North East	703	419	60
South East	981	574	59
Eastern	380	235	62
West Midlands	585	344	59
South West	698	406	58
East Midlands	658	409	62

2005-06: Ages 9-15 main drug cannabis

	In treatment		
		Cannabis	
Region	*All drugs*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Yorkshire and Humberside	599	330	55
North West	1,757	1,088	62
Total	7,571	4,606	61
Missing	22	14	—

2006-07: Ages 9-15 main drug cannabis

	In treatment		
		Cannabis	
Region	*All drugs*	*Number*	*Percentage*
London	1,619	1,039	64
North East	785	358	46
South East	1,253	672	54
Eastern	493	277	56
West Midlands	753	421	56
South West	728	386	53
East Midlands	677	395	58
Yorkshire and Humberside	771	348	45
North West	2,057	1,175	57
Total	9,150	5,079	56
Missing	14	8	—

Ages 9-15 main drug cannabis

	In treatment		
		Cannabis	
	All drugs	*Number*	*Percentage*
2006-07	9,031	5,037	56
2005-06	7,479	4,567	61

Children: Protection

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he received prior to publishing the 2005 guidance paper Working Together to Safeguard Children. [159878]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The new 'Working Together to Safeguard Children', published in 2006, replaced earlier guidance published in 1999. In 2005 the guidance was published in draft for consultation by the then Department for Education and Skills (DFES), now the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). A report on the consultation was published in February 2006. (A copy of the report has been place in the Library of the House). The majority of respondents welcomed the guidance and believed it clearly defined the roles and responsibilities of all professionals in working together to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. A number of issues were raised by respondents including the length of the guidance; issues about the breadth of the role of new Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs); the removal of the Child Protection Register; and the clarity of draft guidance on child death reviews.

Chiropody: Elderly

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what funding was allocated to NHS chiropody services for the elderly in each of the last five years; [161651]

(2) whether the waiting lists for NHS chiropody services for the elderly comply with the Government's commitment to 18 weeks from referral to treatment in *(a)* England, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency; and if he will make a statement. [161673]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Information about how much funding primary care trusts (PCTs) allocate to chiropody services is not collected centrally. It is for PCTs in partnership with local stakeholders to determine how best to use their funds to meet national and local priorities for improving health, outlined in the national service frameworks and to commission services accordingly.

Therapies and treatments delivered by chiropodists are included in the 18-week maximum waiting time target if they form part of a consultant led pathway.

In order to support all services provided by chiropodists, including those provided to older people, the Department is implementing a therapies improvement programme. The programme will focus on improving access to allied health professional services through improving the available information and data management. The programme will support improvement in therapy services through providing local events and information for allied health professionals and local health communities.

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what services are provided through the NHS for elderly patients requiring chiropody treatment in *(a)* the North East and *(b)* the area corresponding as closely as possible to Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency. [161652]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: This information is not held centrally.

Clostridium: Disease Control

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis was for setting the Public Service Agreement target to reduce *clostridium difficile* rates by 2011 by 30 per cent. compared to a 2007-08 baseline. [160739]

Ann Keen: The basis for the indicator was the mandatory *clostridium difficile* surveillance data. An analysis of the best performing 25 per cent. of non-specialist trusts indicated that a 30 per cent. reduction could be achieved if rates in the other trusts improved to the same level as trusts within this group i.e. all trusts achieve the rates of the best. This is not the limit of our ambition but the minimum reduction that we are asking the service to achieve.

Community Nurses

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time community matrons there were in each of the last five years, broken down by trust. [152235]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is shown in the table.

Community matrons were collected separately from modern matrons for the first time in the 2006 census with their own specific occupation code. In 2005 the Department defined modern matrons working in community settings as community matrons.

Prior to 2001, the pay grade "matron" had been obsolete for over 30 years as the number of nurse managers have been recorded in the national health service census with general and senior managers.

It takes the work force census a few years to catch up with new occupation titles. Before 2005 it is not possible to define which staff grouping community matrons would have fallen under.

In September 2006 there were 366 community matrons, an increase of 99 or 37 per cent. since 2005. Based on recent discussions with a number of strategic health authorities (SHA) we believe that the census is an undercount, with community matrons most likely being recorded in the census within other occupational groups.

We are committed to increasing the number of community matrons and local development plans strongly suggest this is happening.

NHS hospital and community health services: Community matrons by nature of contract in England by SHA and by organisation as at 30 September 2006

			Headcount
	Total[1]	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
England	366	317	48
North East Strategic Health Authority	32	31	1
County Durham PCT	4	4	0
Gateshead PCT	6	6	0
South Tyneside PCT	9	8	1
Sunderland Teaching PCT	13	13	0
North West Strategic Health Authority	72	62	10
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	8	8	0
East Lancashire PCT	12	9	3
Halton and St. Helens PCT	12	8	4
Liverpool PCT	20	20	0
North Lancashire PCT	5	4	1
Oldham PCT	8	8	0
The Mid Cheshire Hospital NHS Trust	1	0	1
Warrington PCT	1	1	0
West Cheshire PCT	3	2	1
Wirral PCT	2	2	0
Yorkshire and The Humber Strategic Health Authority	70	56	14
Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT	6	6	0
Calderdale PCT	10	5	5
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	2	2	0
Kirklees PCT	5	5	0
Leeds PCT	30	25	5
Rotherham PCT	9	7	2
Sheffield PCT	8	6	2
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority	28	24	4
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT	9	8	1
Nottingham City PCT	7	7	0
Nottinghamshire County Teaching PCT	12	9	3
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	31	27	4
Coventry Teaching PCT	7	6	1
North Staffordshire PCT	3	2	1
Solihull Care Trust	7	7	0
Walsall Teaching PCT	12	10	2
Warwickshire PCT	2	2	0
East of England Strategic Health Authority	31	28	3
Bedfordshire PCT	2	2	0
Cambridgeshire PCT	2	2	0
Great Yarmouth and Waveney Teaching PCT	3	3	0
Mid Essex PCT	7	5	2
Norfolk PCT	1	1	0
North East Essex PCT	5	5	0
South East Essex PCT	4	4	0
South West Essex Teaching PCT	5	4	1
Suffolk PCT	2	2	0
London Strategic Health Authority	35	34	1
Enfield PCT	10	10	0
Greenwich Teaching PCT	1	1	0
Havering PCT	6	6	0
Hounslow PCT	3	3	0
Islington PCT	2	2	0
Lambeth PCT	6	6	0
Wandsworth PCT	3	2	1
Westminster PCT	4	4	0
South Central Strategic Health Authority	12	11	0
Berkshire East Teaching PCT	4	4	0
Berkshire West PCT	7	7	0
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT[1]	1	0	0

NHS hospital and community health services: Community matrons by nature of contract in England by SHA and by organisation as at 30 September 2006

			Headcount
	Total[1]	*Full-time*	*Part-time*
South West Strategic Health Authority	55	44	11
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	1	1	0
Bristol Teaching PCT	26	19	7
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	13	11	2
Dorset PCT	5	5	0
Somerset PCT	1	0	1
Swindon PCT	5	4	1
Torbay Care Trust	2	2	0
Wiltshire PCT	2	2	0

[1] Portsmouth City Teaching PCT's total also includes a member of bank staff, hence the one extra member of staff in the total.

Source:
Information Centre for health and social care 2006 Non-Medical Workforce Census.

Death

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of finished episodes of care with a primary diagnosis of *(a)* coronary heart disease, *(b)* stroke and transient ischaemic attack, *(c)* diabetes, *(d)* chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, *(e)* cancer, *(f)* dementia, *(g)* depression and *(h)* chronic kidney disease had a secondary diagnosis of (i) malnutrition and (ii) nutritional anaemias in each year since 1997-98. [161714]

Mr. Bradshaw: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before the Prorogation.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of finished episodes of care with a primary diagnosis of *(a)* malnutrition and *(b)* nutritional anaemias had a secondary diagnosis of (i) coronary heart disease, (ii) stroke and transient ischaemic attack, (iii) diabetes, (iv) chronic obstructive pulmonary disorder, (v) cancer, (vi) dementia, (vii) depression and (viii) chronic kidney disease in each year since 1997-98. [161715]

Mr. Bradshaw: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before the Prorogation.

Dental Services

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will publish the legal advice underlying his Department's policy not to allow a parental opt-out for dental screening epidemiological surveys; and whether his Department obtained legal advice on its policy to allow a parental opt-out for the medical testing of obesity. [161185]

Ann Keen: No, the legal advice which we have received is confidential. However, we can say that dental screening and epidemiological surveys are very different from weight and height population monitoring exercises, and that the legal advice reflects those differences.

Consent is needed for the dental surveys because they involve internal investigation (within the mouth) which might otherwise be an assault and battery whereas weight and height data can be collected with minimal or no touching. Also, the lawfulness of the dental surveys depends on consent whereas the height and weight exercise relies on the Health Service (Control of Patient Information) Regulations 2002 (No.1438).

Dental Services: Derbyshire

Mr. Skinner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many NHS dental practices are operating in Derbyshire; [161063]

(2) how many dentists on NHS contracts were registered in Derbyshire in each year since 2004. [161064]

Ann Keen: Numbers of national health service dentists at primary care trust (PCT) and strategic health authority (SHA) area as at 31 March 1997 to 2006 are available in Annex E of the "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006".

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements. This report, published by The Information Centre for health and social care and a copy of the report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/primary-care/dentistry/nhs-dental-activity-and-workforce-report-england-31-march-2006

Data in this report are available for High Peak and Dales PCT, Chesterfield PCT, North Eastern Derbyshire PCT, Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire PCT, Amber Valley PCT and Erewash PCT. These PCTs merged to form Derbyshire County PCT on 1 October 2006. Data are also available for Central Derby PCT and Greater Derby PCTs, which merged to form Derby City PCT on 1 October 2006.

Numbers of NHS dentists at PCT and SHA level as at 30 June, 30 September, 31 December 2006 and 31 March 2007 are available in Table El of Annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07" report. Data in this report are available for Derbyshire County PCT.

This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. A copy of the report is available in the Library and is also available at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

The inclusion of dentists on trust-led contracts in the data collection following the 2006 reforms means that data collected since April 2006 cannot be directly compared with data collected under the previous system.

In both reports, no account is taken of the level of NHS service, if any, that each dentist provides.

Information on the number of NHS dental practices operating in Derbyshire could only be made available at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Cost Effectiveness

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a breakdown of the Department's efficiency savings in relation to its Spending Review 2004 (SR04) targets, including *(a)* the efficiency projects in the Department, *(b)* the date on which they were initiated and *(c)* how much each was predicted to contribute to the SR04 target. [160549]

Mr. Bradshaw: Details of projects contributing to the department's efficiency target for the 2004 Spending Review (SR04) are provided in our Efficiency Technical Note (ETN), published in December 2005, a copy has been placed in the Library and is also available on the department website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_4124041

The ETN sets out the predicted contribution of each of the main groups of projects (workstreams). It also indicates the scale of expected contribution for each project. It does not specifically indicate individual project start dates.

The ETN makes clear that the efficiency programme would continue to evolve during the delivery period with the inclusion of opportunities identified after 2005, and potential changes in the relative contributions of different workstreams and projects.

We delayed republishing the ETN pending final agreements with HM Treasury and the National Audit Office regarding a few areas of measurement, which have now been agreed. The updated document is almost complete and will be published prior to our next planned reporting of progress in our autumn performance report in December. We will include your request for project start dates in the update. A copy of the final publication will be placed on the department website and in the Library.

Departments: Older Workers

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by his Department applied to continue to work beyond state retirement age in the latest year or part thereof for which figures are available; and how many of those applications were successful. [161286]

Mr. Bradshaw: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before the Prorogation.

Departments: Pay

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the salary including bonuses is of the Commercial Director of the Department of Health; and what other benefits he receives as part of his remuneration package. [160398]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 23 October 2007]:* The Director General, of the Commercial Directorate of the Department receives a salary in the range of £185,000 to £190,000. The Director General will become eligible to be considered for a bonus for the first time in April 2008. Other benefits include a one-off relocation package, and contributions to both accommodation in the United Kingdom and travel to the United States.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the draft of his Department's Policy Costing Handbook dated 7 March, (1) which policy proposals his Department classed as high risk in each of the last five financial years; [159967]

(2) for which policy proposals his Department sought formal HM Treasury approval in each of the last five financial years because they have revenue costs above his Department's delegated limits or have been classed as high risk, as referred to in paragraph 33 on page 9. [159968]

Mr. Bradshaw: The risk classification referred to in the draft Policy Costing Handbook is used internally by the Department's Revenue Investment Branch to prioritise work.

Since the formation of the Revenue Investment Branch two cases have been specifically referred to HM Treasury for approval; Outsourcing of NHS Logistics and the Pandemic Flu Vaccine.

A number of other policy proposals above departmental delegated limits have formed part of the Department's comprehensive spending review bid which has now been approved by HM Treasury.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) on what dates his Department breached its *(a)* resource, *(b)* near-cash, *(c)* administration and *(d)* capital budgets since 2001; what the value of each breach was; and what the reason was for each breach; [160317]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1867-8W, on Departments: Finance, if he will break down the chapter, Differences from Previous Plans, into *(a)* near cash, *(b)* non-cash and *(c)* capital budget; and what his Department's budget was in (i) the years covered by the 2004 Spending Review and (ii) at the time of the 2006 Budget, broken down into (A) near-cash, (B) non-cash and (C) capital expenditure plans for each year; [160235]

(3) in which financial years since 2001 his Department's outturn for its capital budget at the end of the year was less than planned at the beginning of the year; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* reason for the underspend was in each case. [160336]

Mr. Bradshaw: The National Audit Office measures spending performance against plans by comparing outturns against final provision following supplementary estimates, rather than against plans at the start of the year. This is because plans can change during the year for a number of reasons, such as, machinery of Government and classification changes.

The definitive figures for final provision and provisional outturn are published each year in Public Expenditure Outturn White Papers (PEOWP), which are available in the Library. The paper references are:

PEOWP 2001-02—CM5574
PEOWP 2002-03—CM5884
PEOWP 2003-04—CM6293
PEOWP 2004-05—CM6639
PEOWP 2005-06—CM6883
PEOWP 2006-07—CM7156

Provisional spending estimates for resource, near-cash, non-cash, capital and administration budgets are published in the Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA), along with changes to plans arising in-year and the differences between provisional and final outturns. PESA papers are available in the Library. The paper references are:

PESA 2002—CM4602 to CM4621
PESA 2003—CM5901
PESA 2004—CM6201
PESA 2005—CM6521
PESA 2006—CM6811
PESA 2007—CM7091

Departments: Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many citizens' juries have been arranged by his Department since June 2007; which organisations have been commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the estimated cost is of each exercise. [159507]

Ann Keen: The Department has run nine citizens' juries on the future of the national health service. These were organised by Opinion Leader Research. Each event cost £96,547.78, totalling £868,930.02.

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many citizens' juries were arranged for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies in each year since 1997; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the cost was of each. [160019]

Dawn Primarolo: Data from 1997 on the number and cost of citizens' juries undertaken by the Department are not readily available. Supplying the costs and occurrences of citizens' juries would require a substantive investigation into all public engagement programmes undertaken by various divisions within the Department and its arms-length bodies including the national health service at a disproportionate cost. However, we can identify details on two substantial engagement programmes the Department has recently undertaken.

Firstly the national engagement for the "Our health, our care, our say" White Paper in 2005, for which the cost of the nationally organised listening exercise was £1.39 million. This was funded through the Department's running cost budget. The main element was £1.05 million paid to Opinion Leader Research (OLR) to deliver a major research programme, which included the cost of running a series of regional deliberative events, and a national citizens' summit attended by nearly 1,000 members of the public and a citizens' panel of 10 people. OLR's costs were incurred in the delivery of the service rather than the provision of consultancy.

Secondly, the Department held a series of citizens' juries informing Lord Darzi's review of the NHS. Again this was a national deliberative event conducted through nine regional events in each strategic health authority outside London. On 18 September 2007 over 1,100 patients, members of the public and NHS staff were involved in the events. The aim of which was to identify the way forward for a 21st century NHS which is clinically-driven, patient centred and responsive to local communities. Lord Darzi, the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State (Alan Johnson) attended the event in Birmingham and were video linked to each of the other eight events. The main component of this was the nine 18 September events totalling £868,930.02.

Departments: Surveys

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1560-61W, on Departments: surveys, for what reasons the departmental staff surveys for his Department in 2006 and 2007 are not yet available on the www.civilservice.gov.uk website. [161758]

Dawn Primarolo: The departmental staff survey results for 2006 and 2007 can now be found at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/iam/staff_survey.asp

Unfortunately, due to migration of data on the website, the results did not appear on the earlier civil service website page.

Departments: Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of questions tabled to his Department for answer on a named day received a substantive reply on the day named in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [161348]

Dawn Primarolo: In the year ending 30 September 2007, we answered 1,615 named day parliamentary questions, of which 1,010, 63 per cent. were answered on the day specified.

Dietary Supplements: Channel Islands

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Food Standards Agency and the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency intend to take in relation to the trade in food supplements and herbal remedies from the Channel Islands in the next 12 months. [161796]

Dawn Primarolo: The Food Standards Agency has written to the governments of Jersey and Guernsey suggesting a collective meeting where the application of the European Commission Food Supplements Directive and the associated implications for trade will be discussed.

The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has begun discussions about the implementation of the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive, as part of discussions on the implementation of the Pharmaceutical Directive, with the government of Guernsey and wrote on 28 June 2007 to the government of Jersey to open similar discussions. The discussions with Guernsey are ongoing.

Emergency Services: Telephone Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to establish a single three-digit number for access to urgent care services, as stated on page 27 of his Department's NHS Next Stage Review, published on 4 October 2007. [158476]

Mr. Bradshaw: This concept of a single three-digit number for access to urgent care services was stated in both Lord Darzi's report "Healthcare for London: A Framework for Action and the NHS Next Stage Review".

We are considering whether the concept of a single three-digit number for urgent care would help the public in understanding how to access services when they need urgent care. The discussions and findings of the acute clinical pathway groups will inform the direction of this work.

The aim is that whatever number people ring, it is memorable for them and they can be confident that they will get a rapid and safe assessment of their needs and an appropriate response to meet those needs. We are exploring in the coming weeks how best to achieve this aim.

Eyesight: Testing

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of children under the age of 16 years in *(a)* England, *(b)* the east of England and *(c)* Suffolk have taken up free NHS sight tests. [161191]

Ann Keen: 21.8 per cent. of children under the age of 16 years received an national health service sight test in the year ending 31 March 2007.

Information on children under 16 years will be available at strategic health authority and primary care trust level in the publication "General Ophthalmic Services: Activity Statistics for England and Wales: April 2007-September 2007". This will be published by March 2008.

General Practitioners

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many single-doctor medical practices there were in each year since 2000; and if he will make a statement. [161479]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is contained in the following table.

Single handed general practitioner (GP) providers[1] in England as at 2000-06

England	*Number (headcount)*
2000	2,662
2001	2,626
2002	2,566
2003	2,578
2004	2,285
2005	2,176
2006	2,222

[1]A single handed GP provider is one who has no partners although may employ a GP Registrar or GP retainer

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 913W, on general practitioners, whether Lord Darzi will examine the *(a)* clinical and *(b)* access domain in his consideration of the Quality and Outcomes Framework; and if he will make a statement. [160182]

Mr. Bradshaw: The National Health Service Next Stage Review Interim Report announced that there will be a review of primary care and community services to improve access, personalisation, effectiveness, fairness and choice. As indicated in the interim report, this review will address among other issues how to reshape incentives in the contractual arrangements for primary medical care to provide a stronger focus on health outcomes and continuous quality improvements. This is likely to mean looking at all the different domains of the Quality and Outcomes Framework.

General Practitioners: Training

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GPs in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* England were invited by their primary care trusts to attend courses to update their skills in each year since 2000. [161478]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally.

Post-registration training needs for national health service staff are determined against local NHS priorities, through appraisal processes and training needs analyses informed by local delivery plans and the needs of the service.

Access to training is affected by a number of factors such as the availability of funding, whether staff can be released, the availability of appropriate training interventions, mentors and assessors.

As part of the Government's review of regulation, we are proposing to introduce revalidation for all doctors to ensure that their knowledge and skills are up to date.

Genetically Modified Organisms: Animal Feed

Alan Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which genetically modified products may be sold in UK markets for animal feed. [161741]

Dawn Primarolo: European Commission Regulation 1829/2003 on genetically modified (GM) food and feed controls the marketing of genetically modified organism products across the European Union. Authorisations under this Regulation currently cover animal feed obtained from 12 types of GM maize, 5 types of GM cotton, 3 types of GM oilseed rape,

1 type of GM sugarbeet, 1 type of GM soya and 2 types of GM yeast. The following table gives more detail about these products.

Genetically modified organism	*Transformation event*	*Characteristics*
Genetically modified maize	Btll	Insect resistant and herbicide tolerant
	DAS1507	Insect resistant and herbicide tolerant
	GA21	Herbicide resistant
	MON810	Insect resistant
	MON863	Insect resistant
	MON863 x NK603	Insect resistant and herbicide tolerant
	MON863 x MON810	Insect resistant
	NK603	Herbicide tolerant
	NK603 x MON810	Insect resistant and herbicide tolerant
	T25	Herbicide tolerant
	DAS1507 x NK603	Insect resistant and herbicide tolerant
	DAS59122	Insect resistant and herbicide tolerant
Genetically modified cotton	MON1445	Herbicide tolerant
	MON15985	Insect resistant
	MON15985 x MON1445	Insect resistant and herbicide tolerant
	MON531	Insect resistant
	MON531 x MON1445	Insect resistant and herbicide tolerant
Genetically modified oilseed rape	GT73	Herbicide tolerant
	MS8, RF3, MS8 x RF3	Herbicide tolerant and sterile
	T45	Herbicide tolerant
Genetically modified soya	MON40-3-2	Herbicide tolerant
Genetically modified sugar beet	H7-1	Herbicide tolerant
Genetically modified micro-organisms	pCABL-Bacterial biomass	Bacterial protein, by-product from the production by fermentation of L-Lysine HCI obtained from (Brevibacterium lactofermentum) the recovered killed micro-organisms.
	pMT742 or pAK729-Yeast biomass	Product produced from genetically modified yeast strains (Saccharomyces cerevisiae)

Health Education: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Government spent on alcohol information campaigns in each year since 1997; and how much it plans to spend in the next 12 months. [159804]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table sets out the cost of public health information campaigns and publicity on sexual health, teenage pregnancy and alcohol in each year from 1997 to 2005.

	Alcohol campaign (£ million)
1997-98	—
1998-99	—
1999-2000	—
2000-01	—
2001-02	—
2002-03	0.097
2003-04	0.045
2004-05	0.342
2005-06	0.064

Note:
We only have financial information on alcohol expenditure for the last four years, as data pre-2002-03 were held on an old financial system, which is no longer accessible.

There has been no major campaign expenditure on alcohol consumption in the financial years 1997 to 2005, so costs given relate to literature and website activity only.

Expenditure for 2006-07 is shown in the following table.

Financial year 2006-07

	£
Home Office	2,000,000
Department of Health	1,777,000
Total budget	3,777,000

Note:
The figures do not include website and distribution at about £4 million, which would be split equally between the two departments.

For the financial year 2007-08, the Department is committed to spending £6 million and the Home Office are allocating £3.5 million of their central marketing budget to alcohol harm reduction.

Health Services

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what central assumptions his Department makes in its projections for planning for demand for health services about current *(a)* mean and *(b)* median (i) fertility, (ii) average age at marriage and (iii) marriage rates of each gender. [161833]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not make assumptions on these issues. However, according to the Office for National Statistics assumptions of fertility rates are required for national population projections. The most recent national population projections, based on the population at the middle of 2006, were published on 23 October 2007. Details of the central fertility assumptions for the United Kingdom and its constituent countries are available at:

www.gad.gov.uk/Demography_Data/Population/2006/methodology/fertass.asp

Projections of the population by legal marital status are only produced at England and Wales level. The most recent population projections by marital status

are based on the population at the middle of 2003 and were published in March 2005. Details of the marriage rate assumptions are available at:

www.gad.gov.uk/Demography_Data/Marital_status_projections/2003/marriage_assumptions.asp

Health Services: Elderly

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to increase accessibility of health care services to senior citizens since 1997. [159524]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In March 2001, the Department published the "National Service Framework (NSF) for Older People's Services". The NSF is at the centre of the Government's response to meeting the health and social care needs of an ageing population in England. Standard one of the NSF stated that, national health services will be provided, regardless of age, on the basis of clinical need alone. Social care services will not use age in their eligibility criteria or policies, to restrict access to available services.

Good progress has already been made with increased access to health services for old-age related conditions such as stroke, scanning for risk of fractures, hip, knee and cataract surgery. Mechanisms are in place also to ensure that services for older people continue to improve. These include work force development, information technology to implement electronic personal care records, independent inspection of health, social care and council services, the publication of evidence based guidelines, further research and local champions committed to improving the health and care of older people.

This year the Department published "A Recipe for Care not A Single Ingredient". This reinforced the need for specialist services for older people, as outlined in the NSF, and focused on bringing care closer to home and reducing the need for acute hospital care whenever needed.

The Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) was introduced in 2004 as part of the General Medical Services contract. Many of the clinical areas within the QOF cover areas which impact on older patients.

Hospitals: Admissions

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many emergency readmissions to hospitals there were within 28 days of discharge in each year since 1997; and what percentage this figure represents of all live discharges. [160261]

Mr. Bradshaw: Currently the best computations of readmission rates are those released by the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development (NCHOD). Hospital Episode Statistics data is used in the derivation of these readmission rates, and are published on the NCHOD website at www.nchod.nhs.uk. There are eight years data from 1998-99 to 2005-06 at primary care trust level and trust level, for the age groups 0-15, 16-74 and 75 and over. These published data are indirectly standardised rates and exclude discharges for those coded as death, day cases, maternity spells, mental health specialties and those with a mention of cancer or chemotherapy for cancer anywhere in the spell. Full definitions are on the NCHOD website. Other analyses from this source could only be produced at disproportionate cost.

Hospitals: Finance

Mr. Neil Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when the results of the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation's report on funding formulas will be incorporated into the market forces factor for acute hospital trust payments and formula funding for primary care trusts; [159588]

(2) whether he has received the report from the Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation in respect of *(a)* market forces factor and *(b)* formula for allocating primary care trust funding. [159589]

Mr. Bradshaw: Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA) is reviewing the weighted capitation formula in support of the revenue allocations to primary care trusts (PCTs) post 2007-08. This review covers the market forces factor.

ACRA's work is ongoing, but once it is complete, ACRA will make recommendations to Ministers on proposed formula changes. Ministers will need to give due consideration to any proposed changes to the formula, as recommended by ACRA.

The date for announcing revenue allocations to PCTs post 2007-08 has not yet been determined. Documentation supporting the announcement will be published as soon as practically possible after the allocation announcement has been made.

In relation to payment by results, no decision has been made as to when the results of the ACRA's report will be incorporated into the market forces factor adjustments for acute trusts under the payment by results system. The national tariff for 2008-09 will use the current market forces factor.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Mr. Skinner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting times were for *(a)* heart and *(b)* cancer operations in Bolsover constituency in each year since 2000-01. [161062]

Ann Keen: The information is not held centrally in the format requested.

For the area now served by Derbyshire county PCT median waiting times for cardiothoracic surgery and cardiology are as follows:

	Median waiting time in weeks	
Quarter ending	*Cardiothoracic surgery*	*Cardiology*
June 2002	13.2	11.7
March 2003	10.3	11.6
March 2004	8.4	8.5
March 2005	5.0	7.8
March 2006	5.7	4.5
March 2007	4	4.3
June 2007	3.5	4.5

Note:
PCTs came into being from the April 2002
Source:
Department of Health QF01

Figures for March 2006 and earlier are based on the waiting lists of the following PCTs being combined together: (pre merger) Amber Valley, Chesterfield, Erewash, Derbyshire Dales and South Derbyshire High Peak and Dales, North East Derbyshire and Erewash.

Figures for waiting time, in weeks, from referral to treatment for all cancers at the two acute trusts in Derbyshire are as follows:

Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (previously Chesterfield and North Derbyshire Royal Hospital NHS Trust)

As at June	*31 weeks or less*	*32 to 38*	*39 to 48*	*49 to 62*	*63 to 76*	*77 to 90*	*91 to 104*	*105+*
2007	40	13	11	22	0	0	0	0
2006	51.5	23	14	21.5	1.5	0.5	0	0
2005	25	16	14	17	2	0	2	1
2004	32	12	6	10	2	1	1	4

Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

As at June	*31 weeks or less*	*32 to 38*	*39 to 48*	*49 to 62*	*63 to 76*	*77 to 90*	*91 to 104*	*105+*
2007	94.5	30.5	53	64	4.5	2	0	0.5
2006	96	30	40	55.5	5.5	9.5	3	7.5
2005	91	26	19	29	15	12	4	14
2004	67	23	26	22	13	15	8	25

Notes:
From Q2 2005-06 onwards there has been a change in the way the referral to treatment figures are calculated at trust level. Where two national health service organisations (Cancer Unit and Cancer Centre) are involved in the care of the patient this is taken into account by recording half the activity against the unit that initially sees the patient and half against the centre that provides the first definitive treatment. In the past all the activity was recorded against the centre that provided the first definitive treatment.
This change means that figures for trusts on referral to treatment in Q1 2005-06 are not comparable with Q3 2005-06 figures. However the national figures are still comparable.
Source:
DH Cancer Waiting Times Statistics

Infectious Diseases: North East Region

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many healthcare-acquired infections there were in *(a)* the North East, *(b)* the Tees Valley and *(c)* the area corresponding as closely as possible to Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years. [161650]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format required.

Mandatory surveillance of meticillin resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) blood stream infections commenced in April 2001, for Clostridium difficile in January 2004 and for glycopeptide-resistant enrterococci (GRE) in October 2003 for acute NHS Trusts in England.

Data have been extracted from the Health Protection Agencies report on regional and national analyses of the Mandatory Bacteraemia Surveillance Scheme for National Health Service Trusts in the North East. This can be found in the following tables.

Number of C. difficile reports for patients > 65 years

Region	*Name of NHS Trust*	*January-December* 2004	2005	2006
North East	City Hospitals Sunderland	383	436	291
North East	County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals	291	531	464
North East	Gateshead Health	197	207	169
North East	North Tees and Hartlepool	157	251	371
North East	Northumbria Health Care	367	378	507
North East	South Tees Hospitals	316	476	563
North East	South Tyneside	238	156	103
North East	The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals	370	365	497
Total		2,319	2,800	2,965

MRSA bacteraemia reports

Name of NHS Trust	*April-March* 2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
City Hospitals Sunderland	41	47	56	47	47	49
Count Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals	30	40	38	47	36	64
Gateshead Health	11	20	36	16	28	31
North Tees and Hartlepool	21	19	15	13	30	36
Northumbria Health Care	45	74	67	66	78	52
South Tees Hospitals	120	96	69	67	76	57
South Tyneside	7	13	15	14	18	6

MRSA bacteraemia reports

Name of NHS Trust	April-March 2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals	88	71	93	90	65	74
Total	363	380	389	360	378	369

GRE bacteraemia reports

Region	Name of NHS Trust	October-September 03-04	04-05	05-06
North East	City Hospitals Sunderland	0	0	0
North East	County Durham and Darlington Acute Hospitals	0	1	0
North East	Gateshead Health	0	0	0
North East	North Tees and Hartlepool	0	1	0
North East	Northumbria Health Care	0	0	1
North East	South Tees Hospitals	1	0	2
North East	South Tyneside	0	0	0
North East	The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals	2	2	7
Total		3	4	10

Influenza: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many free influenza vaccines are available for use; how many will be available for use by *(a)* November and *(b)* December 2007 in each London (i) constituency and (ii) primary care trust area; and if he will make a statement. [161551]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested on the amounts of vaccine ordered within London is not held centrally in the Department. Sixteen million doses of influenza vaccine have been manufactured for the United Kingdom market this season, of which just under 14 million have already been distributed. The remainder of the vaccine will be delivered during November, or when it is requested by general practitioners.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many pensioners received a free influenza vaccine in each *(a)* London constituency and *(b)* London primary care trust area in each year since 1997; what percentage each figure represents of those eligible in each year; and if he will make a statement. [161552]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not held in the format requested. Flu vaccine uptake data were collected for the first time on those aged 65 and over from 2000. Data is not collected by constituency.

The percentage of those aged 65 and over who received a flu vaccine in each London primary care trust for which data has been placed in the Library.

Maidstone NHS Trust: Managers

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North Norfolk (Norman Lamb) of 19 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1392W, on Maidstone NHS Trust: managers, what legal advice his Department has received on the severance payment to the former Chief Executive of the Maidstone NHS Trust. [161416]

Ann Keen: Full legal advice is still being obtained.

Malnutrition

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* males and *(b)* females who are underweight; and if he will make a statement. [161091]

Mr. Bradshaw: Latest data taken from the Health Survey for England 2005, shows that in England, in 2005, 1.5 per cent. of males and 1.7 per cent. of females aged 16 and over were classified as being underweight, Body Mass Index of under 18.5. This information can also be found in the "Health Survey for England—updating of trend tables to include 2005 data", a copy has been placed in the Library and is also available at: www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/hse05trends.

Malnutrition: Admissions

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people *(a)* were admitted to and *(b)* discharged from hospital with a primary or secondary diagnosis of (i) malnutrition and (ii) nutritional anaemias in each year since 1997-98. [161716]

Mr. Bradshaw: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before the Prorogation.

Maternity Services: Manchester

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library the evidence supporting his Statement of 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 569, that between 30 and 40 babies' lives per year would be saved by the reconfiguration of maternity services in Greater Manchester. [160740]

Ann Keen: The quote referred to during the statement on 15 October 2007 was made by a Consultant Neonatologist and Lead Clinician for the Greater Manchester Neonatal Network and was included in press releases by both the North West Strategic Health Authority and the Ashton, Wigan and Leigh Primary Care Trust on 24 August 2007 following the announcement of the decision on the "Making It Better and Healthy Futures" consultations. A copy of both press releases has been placed in the Library.

Mental Health Services: Voluntary Organisations

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the extent to which the voluntary sector is involved in mental health treatment. [159523]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: No formal assessment has been made of the extent to which the voluntary sector is involved in mental health treatment. However, the 2006 'Count Me In' census showed that 11 per cent. of all mental health in-patients were receiving services from independent providers, which includes both voluntary and private sectors.

The voluntary sector has played, and will continue to play a positive role in both shaping policy and delivering services, including some treatments, to people with mental health problems.

Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus: Hospitals

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps the Government have taken to reduce levels of MRSA in hospitals since 1997. [159522]

Ann Keen: The key steps which the Department has taken since 1997 aimed at reducing levels of methicillin resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA):

introduction of mandatory MRSA surveillance: (April 2001, enhanced in October 2005);

"Winning Ways", (December 2003), which provided a focus for the local national health service on actions that would curb proliferation of antibiotic resistant organisms;

"Towards Cleaner Hospitals", (July 2004), which summarised effective initiatives and set out an action plan requiring trusts to publish infection rates;

launch of the national MRSA target, in November 2004, to reduce the number of bloodstream infections by half, by April 2008;

the National Patient Agency's "Cleanyourhands" campaign (September 2004);

establishing the Department's MRSA/Cleaner Hospitals programme Team (2005), in order to deliver the target and to improve confidence that services are clean and safe;

introduction of an expert "improvement team" to offer targeted support to trusts facing challenges with MRSA rates, (the team will double in size this year);

the Saving Lives, toolkit approach to best practice guidance for reducing MRSA, (June 2005; revised and re-issued June 2007);

Health Act 2006 "Code of Practice on the Prevention and Control of Healthcare Associated Infections" (October 2006);

"MRSA screening guidance", (November 2006);

£50 million made available this year, for strategic health authorities' Directors of Nursing to spend on tackling all health care associated infections;

the "Better Care for All PSA Delivery Agreement", sets a targets for the period to 2010-11, to keep MRSA bloodstream infections below half the numbers in 2003-04; and

recent announcements (September 2007) about; increased use isolation facilities, introduction of a "bare below the elbows" dress code, and matrons'/clinicians' reporting infection control issues to trust boards on a quarterly basis, a new legal requirement being placed on chief executives to report all MRSA bacteraemias to the Health Protection Agency, and every hospital undertaking a deep clean as part of a wider drive for a culture of cleanliness.

In addition, we will progress initiatives stemming from the NHS Next Stage Review relating to; tough powers for the new health and adult social care regulator, annual infection control inspections for acute trusts, MRSA screening for all elective admissions next year and for all emergency admissions as soon as practicable in next three years, potential use of rewards and penalties within the commissioning process, and the empowerment of matrons/local staff to report hygiene concerns to the new regulator.

Midwives: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwives were employed in each London primary care trust in each year since 1997; how many vacancies for midwives there were in each trust in each year; and if he will make a statement. [161553]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information on the number of midwives employed in each London Primary Care Trust is not held in the format requested. The following tables provide the number of qualified nurses, midwifery and health visiting staff employed in all London national health service organisations since 1997.

Furthermore, vacancy data have only been collected since 1999. The available information has been placed in the Library and shows the number of midwife vacancies and the number of midwifes employed at all London NHS organisations since 1999.

Midwives: Manpower

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the ratio was of midwives to live births in each strategic health authority for each year since 1997. [159945]

Mr. Bradshaw: The ratios of midwives per 100 live births in each strategic health authority (SHA), for each year since 1997, are shown in the following table:

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
England	3.7	3.8	3.9	3.9	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.1	4.0	3.8
North East SHA	4.2	4.0	3.9	4.1	4.9	4.7	4.5	4.6	4.5	4.4
North West SHA	5.0	5.0	5.2	5.2	5.0	5.1	4.9	5.0	4.8	4.7
Yorks and the Humber SHA	4.0	4.0	3.8	4.0	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.2	4.2	3.9
East Midlands SHA	2.9	3.1	3.3	3.4	4.0	3.8	3.7	3.6	3.6	3.4
West Midlands SHA	3.9	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.1

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
East of England SHA	3.0	2.8	3.4	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.5	3.8	3.6	3.5
London SHA	3.2	3.6	3.4	3.2	3.4	3.4	3.6	3.5	3.7	3.6
South East SHA	3.0	3.1	3.0	3.3	3.5	3.8	3.7	3.8	3.8	3.6
South Central SHA	3.5	3.7	3.5	3.7	3.9	4.0	3.6	3.7	3.5	3.1
South West SHA	4.2	4.4	4.6	4.8	4.9.	4.8	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.3

Notes:

1. Birth registrations 1997 to 2006 as at 31 December each specified year.
2. More accurate validation processes in 2006 have resulted in the identification and removal of 9,858 duplicate non-medical staff records out of the total work force figure of 1.3 million in 2006. Earlier years' figures could not be accurately validated in this way and so will be slightly inflated. The level of inflation in earlier years' figures is estimated to be less than 1 per cent. of total across all non-medical staff groups for headcount figures (and negligible for full-time equivalents). This should be taken into consideration when analysing trends over time.
3. SHA totals 1997 to 2005 have been calculated using previous health authority (HA)/SHA configurations. HAs were reconfigured to become the 28 SHAs in 2002 and were subsequently reconfigured in to 10 SHAs in 2006. Due to overlaps in the HA/SHA reconfigurations, parts of West Pennine HA and North Derbyshire HA were split over Trent SHA and Greater Manchester SHA. These figures were included in the Trent SHA total to give the figure for the new East Midlands SHA.

Sources:

1. The Information for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census.
2. Office for National Statistics Birth Registrations 1997 to 2006.

Neurology: Manpower

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether there are *(a)* national, *(b)* regional and *(c)* local targets for the number of (i) adult neurologists, (ii) paediatric neurologists, (iii) learning disability specialist and (iv) neuro-radiologist consultants in post; and whether any such targets have been set for the ratio of specialists to patients. [156283]

Mr. Bradshaw: No national or regional targets have been set for these staff groups and there are no targets for the ratio of these specialists to patients. We have no information on local targets, that is a matter for primary care trusts and strategic health authorities.

We are moving away from an emphasis on centrally prescribed national targets to a reliance on credible local plans to maximise work force capacity to support delivery.

Although we have moved away from setting national targets, we are continuing to ensure the frameworks are in place to enable effective local workforce planning.

There has been an increase of 11,310 (53 per cent.) medical specialists in neurological conditions since 1997.

NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement: Operating Costs

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the annual running costs were of the Institute in each year since its introduction; how many full-time employees the Institute has; what assessment he has made of its effectiveness; and if he will make a statement. [161576]

Dawn Primarolo: The annual running costs of the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement in each year since its introduction have been: 2005-06—£42,406,000 (actual revenue), 2006-07—£53,014,000 (actual revenue) and 2007-08—£74,281,000 (forecast revenue funding).

The NHS Institute has 152 full time employees.

The NHS Institute is a relatively new organisation, having only been in existence for two years. To date it has identified a potential £2.2 billion productivity gain of which £360 million has already been realised with the aid of tools and techniques developed by it.

NHS Next Stage Review

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 8 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 672-3W, on NHS Next Stage Review, what the *(a)* names, *(b)* titles and *(c)* qualifications are of the members of each clinical pathway group to inform the work of the NHS Next Stage Review. [160804]

Ann Keen: Each strategic health authority (SHA) is responsible for establishing eight local clinical pathway groups. Lists of members and their qualifications should be sought directly from the SHAs themselves.

NHS: ICT

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 12 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1004W, on the NHS: ICT, if he will place in the Library the annual benefits report for the National Programme for IT; when the results of the annual survey of NHS information management and technology expenditure will be made available; and when the evidence-based development plans will be made available. [161757]

Mr. Bradshaw: A commitment to publish an annual statement outlining the costs and benefits of the national programme was made in the Department's response to the Public Accounts Committee report on the matter. A copy will be placed in the Library.

Full results and analysis from the 2006 survey of NHS information management and technology expenditure were published in January 2007. Information from the 2007 survey is expected to be published in January 2008.

Consultation on proposals for various measures to improve the capability and capacity of the national health service to deliver information technology-enabled change is continuing to take place over the next few months. We intend to publish substantive plans arising from the consultation in the spring of next year.

NHS: Redundancy Pay

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will institute a reassessment of policy in the NHS on severance packages. [161245]

Mr. Bradshaw: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before the Prorogation.

NHS: Reorganisation

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* hospitals, *(b)* parliamentary constituencies and *(c)* other NHS sites have been visited by Lord Darzi for the purposes of conducting his review of the NHS. [157024]

Ann Keen: Lord Darzi has visited the following national health service sites:

Site visited	*Parliamentary constituency*
York Hospital NHS Foundation Trust (FT)	City of York
NHS Yorkshire and Humber Strategic Health Authority (SHA)	Leeds, Central
Meltham Road Surgery, Huddersfield	Colne Valley
NHS North East SHA	Newcastle upon Tyne, North
Bunny Hill Primary Care Centre, Sunderland Sunderland Teaching Primary Care Trust (PCT)	Sunderland, North
Gateshead Healthcare NHS FT	Gateshead, East and Washington, West
NHS North West SHA	Manchester, Central
Alexandra Group Medical Practice, Oldham	Oldham, East and Saddleworth
University Hospital of South Manchester NHS FT	Wythenshawe and Sale, East
Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospitals NHS FT	North West Hampshire
Abingdon Community Hospital Marcham Road general practitioner Practice	Oxford, West and Abingdon
Derby Royal Infirmary	Derby, South
Tiverton District Hospital	Tiverton and Honiton
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS FT	Exeter
Conquest Hospital, Hastings Ore Clinic, Hastings	Hastings and Rye
West View Hospital, Tenterden	Ashford
NHS West Midlands SHA Karis Medical Centre, Birmingham	Birmingham, Edgbaston
City Hospital, Birmingham	Birmingham, Ladywood
Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow	Harlow
St. Margaret's Hospital, Epping	Epping Forest
Tiverton District Hospital	Tiverton and Honiton
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	Exeter

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which 250 stakeholder groups were met by Lord Darzi as part of the Our NHS Our Future exercise. [158692]

Ann Keen: The information that has been requested has been placed in the Library.

NHS: Standards

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of NHS organisations met core standard C15b of the Standards for Better Healthcare in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; and which NHS organisations did not meet core standard C15b in (i) 2005-06 and (ii) 2006-07. [161713]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number and percentage of organisations meeting core standard C15b was:

for 2005-06, 514 trusts (95 per cent.)

for 2006-07, 370 trusts (97 per cent.)

The following 26 organisations were non compliant with core standard C15b in 2005-06:

Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust
Good Hope Hospital NHS Trust
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust
Buckinghamshire Mental Health NHS Trust
Swindon Primary Care Trust
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust
Basildon and Thurrock University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust
East Kent NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust
Mersey Care NHS Trust
East Sussex County Healthcare NHS Trust
South East Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust
Swale Primary Care Trust
Brighton and Hove City Primary Care Trust
Waltham Forest Primary Care Trust
The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust
Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust
Barts and The London NHS Trust
South West London and St. George's Mental Health NHS Trust
Barking and Dagenham Primary Care Trust
Dacorum Primary Care Trust
Oldbury and Smethwick Primary Care Trust
Rowley Regis and Tipton Primary Care Trust
Wednesbury and West Bromwich Primary Care Trust

The following 12 organisations were non compliant with core standard C15b in 2006-07:

Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust
Tameside and Glossop Acute Services NHS Trust
Sutton and Merton Primary Care Trust
Swindon Primary Care Trust
James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
St. George's Healthcare NHS Trust
Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust
East and North Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust
Leicester City Primary Care Trust
West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust

Northamptonshire Primary Care Trust: Finance

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding Northamptonshire Primary Care Trust received in 2006-07; and what that funding would have been had the national capitation formula been met in full. [161614]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table shows the revenue allocation made to Northamptonshire Teaching Primary Care Trust (PCT) for 2006-07 together with its target allocation for 2006-07.

£000

PCT name	*2006-07 actual allocation*	*2006-07 target allocation*
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT	730,405	768,750

Nurses: Greater London

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses were employed in each London primary care trust area in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [161550]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not held in the format requested. Primary care trusts' figures are only available from 2002, and figures are not broken down for individual health-related professions. Tables have been placed in the Library which provide the number of qualified nurses, midwifery and health visiting staff employed in all London national health service organisations since 1997.

Obesity

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the total cost to industry of illness, inactivity and premature death associated with overweight and obesity; what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in his Department have had with ministerial colleagues on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [161080]

Dawn Primarolo: The Foresight report, Tackling Obesities: Future Choices, published on 17 October 2007, says that the economic implications of obesity are substantial. A copy of the report is available in the Library. By 2050, without action, a seven-fold increase in the direct healthcare costs of overweight and obesity is anticipated, with wider costs to society and business reaching £45.5 billion (at today's prices).

The Secretary of State for Health made a statement in the House on 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 825, where he announced the development of a comprehensive cross Government strategy on obesity, to respond to the evidence in the Foresight Report. Because of the need for concerted action on a number of fronts, he will convene a cross- governmental ministerial group to guide our approach.

Officials in the former Department of Trade and Industry worked closely with officials in this Department throughout the Foresight Obesity Project. Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform continue to work with the Department on issues of the appropriateness of regulatory reform in combating obesity.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the *(a)* obesity and *(b)* smoking rate among (i) males and (ii) females in (A) Southend, (B) each borough in Essex, (C) each borough in Kent, (D) the Metropolitan Police area of London and (E) England and Wales, broken down by age group. [161099]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the exact format requested. Data on prevalence of obesity by gender and age among adults aged 16 and over, in England in 2005, is available from the "Health Survey for England" 2005 and is presented in table 1.

Data on the percentage of adults aged 16 and over who smoke by gender and age, for England are available from the 2005 "General Household Survey". This information is presented in table 2.

Information on smoking and obesity for Wales is available from the Welsh Health Survey 2005-06, available in tables 10 and 16 at:

http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/statistics/headlines/health-2007/hdw20070830/?lang=en

Smoking and obesity rates in Southend, each borough in Essex, each borough in Kent and the Metropolitan Police area of London are not available. However, estimated prevalence of obesity and smoking among adults aged 16 and over, along with associated confidence intervals are provided for the wards in Southend on Sea local authority, Kent, Essex, Inner London and Outer London. These estimates are taken from the Synthetic Estimates of Healthy Lifestyle Behaviours. Estimates are for the combined years 2000-02 and are shown in tables 3 and 4. These estimates are not available by age group or gender. Synthetic estimates are also published on the Neighbourhood Statistics website, available at:

http://neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/Download1.do

Table 1: Prevalence of obesity among adults, by age and gender, 2005[1]—England

Percentage

	All ages	*16-24*	*25-34*	*35-44*	*45-54*	*55-64*	*65-74*	*75+*
Men	22.1	7.6	16.6	27.4	28.3	28.5	27.6	16.9
Women	24.3	12.4	18.9	25.3	28.1	28.1	33.9	25.8
Bases (unweighted)								
Men	2,930	367	463	505	531	501	355	208
Women	3,409	385	531	668	614	588	364	259

Table 1: Prevalence of obesity among adults, by age and gender, 2005[1]—England

	All ages	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65-74	Percentage 75+
Bases (weighted)								
Men	3,144	491	552	620	521	462	311	187
Women	3,184	432	524	628	517	489	322	272

[1] Data are weighted for non-response

Source:
Health Survey for England 2005—updating of trend tables to include 2005 data. The Information Centre

Table 2: prevalence of cigarette smoking among adults[1], by age and gender, 2005[2]—England

	All ages	16-19	20-24	25-34	35-49	50-59	Percentage 60 and over
Men	25	23	34	33	29	25	14
Women	22	27	29	29	25	23	13
Bases (unweighted)							
Men	8,663	449	502	1,367	2,341	7,509	2,495
Women	9,950	447	650	1,590	2,777	1,618	2,868
Bases (weighted 000s)							
Men	16,834	993	1,186	2,843	4,559	2,859	4,394
Women	19,102	947	1,421	3,105	5,311	3,038	5,281

[1] Aged 16 and over.
[2] 2005 data includes last quarter of 2004-05 data due to survey change from financial year to calendar year.

Source:
General Household Survey 2005. Office for National Statistics

Obesity: Children

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of children who were classified as *(a)* overweight and *(b)* obese in (i) Southend, (ii) each borough in Essex, (iii) each borough in Kent, (iv) the Metropolitan Police area of London and (v) England in each of the last five years for which figures are available, broken down by age group. [161092]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the exact format requested. Information on the percentage of overweight and obese children is available from the "Health Survey for England" (HSE).

Table 1 shows overweight and obesity prevalence among children aged two to 10, 11 to 15 and two to 15, in England for the years 2000 to 2005.

Table 2 shows obesity and overweight (including obesity) prevalence among children by age group, for England, for the years 2002 to 2004 combined. Three years of data are combine due to small sample sizes.

Table 3 shows overweight and obesity prevalence among children aged two to 10, 11 to 15 and two to 15, by Government office region for the years 2002 to 2004 combined. Three years of data are combined due to small sample sizes.

Information for Southend, boroughs in Essex and Kent and the Metropolitan police area of London is not available.

Table 1: Overweight and obesity prevalence among children, by gender, 2000 to 2005—England

				Unweighted[1]			Weighted	Percentage
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
Boys									
2-10									
Overweight	13.6	15.6	13.3	14.7	14.2	16.5	14.6	14.6	16.1
Obese	12.2	13.5	15.2	14.9	16.2	16.6	15.1	15.9	16.9
11-15									
Overweight	10.0	14.1	14.4	14.4	12.8	14.8	14.5	12.8	15.0
Obese	18.8	18.8	19.8	20.4	23.7	20.5	20.0	24.2	20.4
2-15									
Overweight	12.4	15.0	13.7	14.6	13.7	15.9	14.6	13.9	15.7
Obese	14.5	15.5	16.9	17.0	18.9	18.0	17.0	19.2	18.3

Table 1: Overweight and obesity prevalence among children, by gender, 2000 to 2005—England

					Unweighted[1]			Weighted	Percentage
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2003	2004	2005
Girls									
2-10									
Overweight	11.6	14.0	13.1	13.4	14.2	12.2	13.4	14.8	12.2
Obese	11.8	12.7	15.8	12.5	11.9	16.7	12.4	12.8	16.8
11-15									
Overweight	14.4	17.5	15.1	16.0	19.4	14.0	16.4	19.3	14.1
Obese	18.1	17.7	19.2	21.9	26.2	20.6	22.1	26.7	20.8
2-15									
Overweight	12.7	15.2	13.9	14.4	16.3	12.8	14.6	16.6	12.9
Obese	14.2	14.5	17.1	16.1	17.8	18.1	16.1	18.5	18.3
Bases (weighted)									
Boys									
2-10	570	1,035	2,364	876	416	695	878	379	664
11-15	306	618	1,381	533	230	382	574	245	438
2-15	877	1,653	3,745	1,410	645	1,077	1,452	624	1,102
Girls									
2-10	523	1,094	2,290	897	343	724	858	346	674
11-15	318	605	1,346	547	236	411	535	235	417
2-15	841	1,699	3,636	1,444	579	1,135	1,393	581	1,091

[1] From 2003 data were also weighted for non response. Data weighted for child selection only are provided for consistency with previous years.

Source:

Health Survey for England: Updating of trend tables to include 2005 data. The Information Centre.

Table 2: Overweight and obesity prevalence among children, by age, 2002-04[1]—England

	Percentage
Aged 2-3	
Obese	11.6
Overweight including obese	25.2
Aged 4-5	
Obese	12.8
Overweight including obese	27.2
Aged 6-7	
Obese	13.5
Overweight including obese	26.7
Aged 8-10	
Obese	18.7
Overweight including obese	31.8
Aged 11-12	
Obese	22.0
Overweight including obese	37.6
Aged 13-15	
Obese	19.5
Overweight including obese	34.1

Table 2: Overweight and obesity prevalence among children, by age, 2002-04[1]—England

	Percentage
Bases (unweighted)[2]	
Aged 2-3	1,130
Aged 4-5	1,410
Aged 6-7	1,559
Aged 8-10	2,360
Aged 11-12	1,616
Aged 13-15	2,361
Bases (weighted for selection only)[3]	
Aged 2-3	1,232
Aged 4-5	1,552
Aged 6-7	1,757
Aged 8-10	2,645
Aged 11-12	1,767
Aged 13-15	2,505

[1] Data are aggregated over the three years, 2002, 2003 and 2004 to achieve a sufficiently large sample for analyse at this level

[2] Unweighted figures are raw unadjusted figures

[3] Weighted figures are adjusted for child selection only and not non-response

Sources:

Health Survey for England 2002. The Department of Health

Health Survey for England 2003. The Department of Health

Health Survey for England 2004. The Information Centre

Table 3: Overweight and obesity prevalence among children by Government office region (GOR) and age, 2002-04[1]—England

Percentage

	North East	North West	Yorkshire and Humber	East Midlands	West Midlands	East England	London	South East	South West
Aged 2-10									
Overweight	13.8	12.9	15.4	16.4	14.1	12.9	12.3	12.5	12.8
Obese	16.4	14.4	13.6	14.8	17.4	13.4	18.8	13.9	12.7
Aged 11-15									
Overweight	13.7	14.8	15.3	11.9	13.1	13.7	17.0	17.1	16.1
Obese	24.0	20.8	20.0	20.2	24.3	18.7	22.5	18.1	18.3
Aged 2-15									
Overweight	13.8	13.6	15.4	14.7	13.8	13.2	14.1	14.2	14.0
Obese	19.5	16.8	15.8	16.9	19.9	15.3	20.1	15.4	14.8
Bases (unweighted)[2]									
Aged 2-10	372	891	700	588	682	743	791	1,041	651
Aged 11-15	250	584	406	366	417	436	470	636	412
Aged 2-15	622	1,475	1,106	954	1,099	1,179	1,261	1,677	1,063
Bases (weighted for selection only)[3]									
Aged 2-10	399	1,021	780	641	768	808	881	1,162	725
Aged 11-15	273	634	424	395	447	462	517	682	438
Aged 2-15	673	1,655	1,204	1,036	1,216	1,271	1,398	1,844	1,163

[1] Data aggregated over the three years, 2002, 2003, and 2004 to achieve a sufficiently large sample for analysis at this level
[2] Unweighted figures are raw unadjusted figures
[3] Weighted figures are adjusted for child selection only and not non-response
Sources:
Health Survey for England 2002. The Department of Health
Health Survey for England 2003. The Department of Health
Health Survey for England 2004. The Information Centre

Paramedical Staff: Training

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many paramedics are in training in each strategic health authority area in England; and what the numbers were in 2005. [159988]

Ann Keen: Information on the numbers of paramedics in training is not held centrally. However the following table shows the number of qualified paramedics since 1997 has increased by 1,782 or 27 per cent.

England as at 30 September each year

	headcount Paramedics
1997	6,440
1998	6,526
1999	6,498
2000	6,790
2001	7,075
2002	7,147
2003	7,241
2004	7,536
2005	8,311
2006[1]	8,222

[1].More accurate validation in 2006 has resulted in 9,858 duplicate records being identified and removed from the non-medical census. (These 9,858 duplicate records, broken down by main staff group, are: 3,370 qualified nurses; 1,818 qualified scientific, therapeutic and technical staff; 2,719 support to doctors and nurses; 1,562 NHS infrastructure support; and 389 in other areas.)
The impact of duplicates on FTE has been minimal with the removal of 507.
Source:
Non Med Census

Patients: Nutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1883-4W, on patients: nutrition, in what ways the National Patient Safety Agency is actively promoting the comprehensive screening of patients on admission to hospital; and what expenditure the National Patient Safety Agency *(a)* committed to this purpose in (i) 2005-06, (ii) 2006-07 and *(b)* has committed in 2007-08. [161759]

Ann Keen: The National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) have been actively promoting the screening of patients on admission to hospital.

Between January and April 2007, the NPSA hosted two workshops for frontline staff from 10 acute national health service trusts in England. The aim of these workshops was to identify the barriers to nutritional screening in hospitals. The Agency has also asked patients for their views on nutritional care in hospitals.

The NPSA actively supported and promoted the British Association of Parental and Enteral Nutrition nutritional screening week which took place on 25-27 September 2007. They are currently working with the Royal College of Nursing on their Nutrition Now campaign.

The NPSA are also currently involved in the development of the Department's Nutritional Action Plan which is due to be released shortly.

Committed expenditure

	Amount (£)
2006-07	28,240
2007-08	22,240

Notes:
1. The figures include pay and non-pay costs for NPSA staff members working on this project.
2. Overheads have been absorbed into the pay cost. In financial year 2005-06 staff were not in post and therefore no specific funds were allocated to this work.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 September 2007, *Official Report,* columns 1882-4W, on patients: nutrition, what the count of bed days was for finished episodes where the *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary diagnosis was nutritional anaemias in each year since 1997-98. [161779]

Mr. Bradshaw: It has not been possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before the Prorogation

Patients: Wales

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many completed patient episodes relating to patients from Wales took place in primary care trusts in *(a)* North West England and *(b)* the West Midlands region of the NHS in each of the last three years for which records are available. [161434]

Mr. Bradshaw: The requested information has been placed in the Library.

Prescriptions: Fraud

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many penalty charges on those wrongfully claiming free prescriptions in accordance with the Health Act 1999 were served in each year since that Act came into force; [161705]

(2) how many checks on free prescription claims were made by the NHS Counter Fraud and Security Management Service in each year since the Health Act 1999 came into force. [161706]

Ann Keen: From August 2001 to March 2003, the Prescription Pricing Authority undertook prescription penalty charge functions as per the provisions of the Health Act 1999.

From April 2003 to March 2005, the National Health Service Counter Fraud and Security Management Service (CFSMS) undertook these functions.

From April 2005 these functions were devolved to primary care trusts with the CFSMS providing a central support process to facilitate verification checks.

The numbers of checks and penalties are provided in the following table.

	Checks	*Penalties*
August 2001 to March 2005	1,600,000	160,000
2005-06	133,857	21,837
2006-07	152,074	25,029

Note:
Data for the period August 2001 to March 2005 is not available by year.

Primary Care Trusts: Finance

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* weighted capitation targets and *(b)* recurrent baselines were for each primary care trust budget in each of the last five financial years; what the difference was between the largest and the smallest baseline in each year; and what the targets and recurrent baselines are for the next five financial years for which indicative budgets have been set. [160855]

Mr. Bradshaw: Weighted capitation targets and allocations for the 303 primary care trusts (PCTs) in existence when the Department announced these allocations are shown in table 4.2 of 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 PCT initial revenue resource limits exposition book which is available in the Library and at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Organisationpolicy/Financeandplanning/Allocations/DH_4000344

and in table 3.2 of "2006-07 and 2007-08 PCT initial revenue resource limits exposition book" which is available in the Library and at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Policyandguidance/Organisationpolicy/Financeandplanning/Allocations/DH_4104471.

The difference between a PCTs weighted capitation target and a PCTs allocation gives its closing distance from target (DFT). If a PCTs weighted capitation target is greater than its allocation a PCT is under target. If a PCTs weighted capitation target is smaller than its allocation, a PCT is over target. The following table shows the largest closing percentage DFTs for the most under and over target PCTs between 2003-04 and 2007-08.

	Closing DFT of most under target PCT	*Percentage Closing DFT of most over target PCT*
2003-04	-20.2	31.1
2004-05	-18.2	30.5
2005-06	-16.2	29.9
2006-07	-8.2	16.0
2007-08	-3.5	15.3

The Department is still determining weighted capitation targets and allocations for 2008-09 to 2010-11 following the 2007 comprehensive spending

review. The Department will not determine allocations for 2011-12 and 2012-13 until after the next spending review.

Radiotherapy: Lincolnshire

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS linear accelerators there are in Lincolnshire; what the capacity of each is in number of fractions per annum; how many years each has been in service; how many new linear accelerators are expected to be available in Lincolnshire in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [161521]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect data in the format requested.

The United Lincolnshire Hospitals NHS Trust has three linear accelerators. However, the Department does not hold information on whether all these machines are in routine clinical use. Some may be used for clinical research, training purposes, or as back up when another machine requires maintenance.

For information relating to fractions per annum for linear accelerators I refer the hon. Member to the reply to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Andrew Lansley) on 16 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1066W.

The acquisition of resources is a matter for local determination based on local needs. The recent report National Radiotherapy Advisory Group (NRAG) published in May 2007 has recommended that the Department sets out a trajectory of the numbers of new linear accelerators it would expect to see coming into use over the next 10 years and monitors local action delivery of this expansion progress in line with this trajectory. This recommendation along with others made by NRAG are being considered as part of the development of the Cancer Reform Strategy.

Rapid Review Panel

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many product assessments the Rapid Review Panel has undertaken since December 2003; how many assessed products were recommended to his Department for use *(a)* in the NHS and *(b)* by the NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency; and how many products in use by the NHS were recommended by the panel. [160715]

Ann Keen: The Panel has undertaken 184 assessments since its first meeting.

Four products have demonstrated sufficient research and development, validation and recent in use evaluations to enable the Rapid Review Panel (RRP) to make a recommendation to the Department that the product should be made available to national health service bodies. This constitutes a recommendation one from the Panel.

Of the four products given a recommendation one, three have been made available to the NHS by the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency via the NHS Supply Chain and are contained in their product supply catalogue.

NHS trusts are free to choose which infection control products to purchase and will maintain their own records.

The NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency does not recommend particular products.

Strokes

Mr. Skinner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people had strokes in *(a)* England and *(b)* the East Midlands in each of the last five years. [161061]

Ann Keen: Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) from 2004-05 suggest there were around 73,000 emergency admissions with a primary diagnosis of stroke. However, this figure under-represents the true incidence of stroke for two reasons: firstly some hospital patients who have a stroke may also have another condition as their primary diagnosis; secondly, not all stroke patients currently attend hospital. HES cannot provide data that is robust enough to give numbers either nationally or regionally.

Academic estimates suggest there are around 110,000 strokes in England per annum.

Strokes: Health Services

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provisions have been made since 1997 to improve the quality of healthcare for stroke sufferers. [158300]

Ann Keen: Between 1996-97 and 2007-08, spending on the national health service has increased from £33 billion to just over £90 billion, representing an average annual increase in real terms of 6 per cent. The improvements seen in stroke services have undoubtedly benefited from these increases over the last 10 years.

The National Service Framework (NSF) for long-term conditions was published in 2004 to improve the quality of life and independence for people with long-term neurological conditions. It set out general guidelines for a range of conditions, including stroke, to establish faster diagnosis, more rapid treatment and a comprehensive package of care based around individual patient needs.

Prior to this the "NSF for Older People", published in 2001, included a chapter on stroke services. It set out a range of measures to reduce the incidence of stroke and improve stroke treatment, which have led to a widespread development of services: the Royal College of Physicians' (RCP) shows that all trusts caring for people who have had a stroke now have a specialist stroke service and 97 per cent. of hospitals in England now have a stroke unit, these were uncommon a decade ago. The audit also shows that in 2006, around two thirds of stroke patients were treated on a stroke unit. This is a significant improvement since 2004 when the figure was less than half. Length of stay in hospital for stroke patients is falling from 34 days in 2001 to 28 days in 2004. The results of the RCP audit also show that the proportion of trusts with a stroke unit meeting five or six of the audit's criteria has increased from 33 per cent. to 41 per cent. between 2004 and 2006.

Stroke mortality is falling. For people under 65, the three year average death rate from stroke has fallen by 23 per cent. over the period from 1993-95 to 2002-04. For people aged 65-75 the death rate has dropped by 30 per cent. over the same period. We have made greater progress in reducing premature deaths from coronary heart disease than from stroke. This is because we have begun by focusing on coronary heart disease, the biggest killer in the country. However, because of the significant progress we have made in this area we are now able to redouble our efforts in addressing the challenge of stroke. This is why the Department launched a stroke strategy document for consultation on 9 July 2007. It followed an 18-month programme of work, setting out the views of six expert working groups who represented a wide range of key stakeholders. The strategy aims to accelerate the emergency response to stroke, by setting out a framework for care of stroke patients, and raising awareness about stroke symptoms and risk factors. It is due for publication by the end of 2007.

In addition to developing the strategy, in 2006 the Department published "Mending hearts and brains", a report by Professor Roger Boyle, the National Director for Heart and Stroke. The report makes the clinical case for reconfiguring stroke services. In particular, it emphasises the need to treat stroke as an emergency, including the delivery of thrombolysis at specialist centres and a possible 'hub and spoke' model for stroke services.

Last year, the Department also launched "Action on stroke services: an evaluation toolkit", (ASSET) to help health care providers compare their performance with others. It considers four aspects of acute treatment setting out how these mean fewer people experiencing death or disability, and more efficient hospital services with people able to return home faster. An additional version, ASSET 2 for commissioners has also been introduced which uses analytical modelling to advise hospitals and primary care trusts of what the impact of making specific changes to their services would be. We have also published a guide for commissioners, setting out key questions they need to consider and a series of best practice case studies.

As well as helping to improve existing stroke services, the Department is investing £20 million over five years (2005-2010) into the development of the UK Stroke Research Network.

Mr. MacDougall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if his Department will increase funding for stroke rehabilitation therapies. [161458]

Ann Keen *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* The Government have been consulting on the recommendations of the working groups contributing to the development of a National Stroke Strategy. It will publish this National Strategy at the end of the year setting out its plans to modernise service provision and deliver the newest treatments for stroke.

Tobacco: Civil Proceedings

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consider the merits of using litigation against tobacco companies in relation to damage caused by their products to the health of British citizens. [160824]

Dawn Primarolo: Smoking is the biggest cause of premature death and one of the most significant causes of health inequality in the United Kingdom. The Department's approach to tobacco control is based on a six-strand strategy to reduce smoking prevalence through the following action:

Reducing tobacco advertising and promotion;

Supporting smokers to quit through the national health service;

Running effective smoking communications and education campaigns;

Regulating tobacco products;

Reducing availability and supply of tobacco; and

Reducing exposure to second-hand smoke.

While the Department has no intention at this point in time to use litigation against tobacco companies in relation to the damage their products cause to health, individuals may take such action.

Transplant Surgery: Manpower

Mr. Anthony Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many transplant co-ordinators are employed in *(a)* England, *(b)* Norfolk and *(c)* Great Yarmouth. [151957]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not collected centrally.

Young Potential: Bassetlaw

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department plans to provide to Young Potential in Bassetlaw in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [161222]

Dawn Primarolo: The Young Potential project is a respected youth initiative primarily funded though local arrangements e.g. the Nottingham Local Strategic Partnership. Together with 26 other schemes, the project participated in the Department's funded three-year pilot Young People's Development Programme (YPDP). The intention of YPDP was always to embed the lessons learned into mainstream activity. YPDP has become recognised as meeting the needs of the new targeted youth support arrangements being taken forward by the Department for Children, Schools and Families. Over the last year, the National Youth Agency and the Department has supported the participant projects in making the case for funding for this aspect of work from their local authority areas, which is what we would now expect to happen.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Acceptable Behaviour Contracts: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* acceptable behaviour orders and *(b)* parenting orders were issued in (i) Peterborough and (ii) Cambridgeshire in each year since their introduction; and if she will make a statement. [161785]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Airports: Warnings

Mr. Gummer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what factors were taken into account in determining the format of the notices posted in airports for incoming passengers at the UK's borders. [161659]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Alcoholic Drinks: Children

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 1 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 2353W, on alcoholic drinks: children, how many fines were levied in each year since 1997. [158808]

Mr. Coaker: The information requested is contained in the table as follows.

Number of persons fined for selling alcohol to those aged under 18 in England and Wales

	Number
1997	111
1998	129
1999	95
2000	46
2001	42
2002	80
2003	353
2004	519
2005	679

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Animal Experiments

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what requirements exist on the recording of observations on the condition of animals used for scientific testing and whether or not there is a change in condition. [161613]

Meg Hillier: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether records on the condition of animals are kept on a 24-hour basis by establishments with a certificate of designation under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986. [161670]

Meg Hillier: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 were carried out in Scotland in 2006. [161679]

Meg Hillier: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many places in Scotland were designated as an *(a)* supplying establishment, *(b)* breeding establishment and *(c)* scientific procedure establishment under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 at the end of (i) 2005 and (ii) 2006. [161680]

Meg Hillier: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many animals were used in regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in Scotland in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006. [161684]

Meg Hillier: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of regulated procedures under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 carried out in Scotland in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006 were conducted without anaesthesia. [161685]

Meg Hillier: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many infringements of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 were recorded in Scotland at the end of 2006; and how many resulting prosecutions there were. [161686]

Meg Hillier: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Animal Experiments: Licensing

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many project licences were granted under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in *(a)* 2005 and *(b)* 2006; and how many project licences were in force at the end of (i) 2005 and (ii) 2006 in respect of work to be carried out in Scotland. [161678]

Meg Hillier: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Antisocial Behaviour Orders: Derbyshire

Mr. Skinner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been imposed in *(a)* Derbyshire and *(b)* Bolsover constituency since their introduction. [161451]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Anti-terrorism Control Orders

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many control orders are active. [161866]

Mr. McNulty: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the effectiveness of control orders. [161867]

Mr. McNulty: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assistance individuals subject to control orders receive with their living costs. [161868]

Mr. McNulty: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how frequently control orders are subject to review; and what form such review takes. [161869]

Mr. McNulty: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any of the individuals who have been subjected to control orders have been treated for self-inflicted injuries. [161870]

Mr. McNulty: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what restrictions may be placed on an individual who is the subject of a control order. [161871]

Mr. McNulty: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals currently subjected to control orders have previous convictions for terrorism-related offences. [161872]

Mr. McNulty: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Arrests: Genetics

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of people arrested in the last 12 months had a DNA sample taken from them; and what factors are taken into account in deciding whether to take a DNA sample from an individual who has been arrested. [160300]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 23 October 2007]:* There is no current data available on the number of individuals who are arrested each year. Information on arrests published in the Statistical Bulletin 'Arrests for Recorded Crime (Notifiable Offences), is based on an 'arrest event' i.e. a person will be counted more than once if arrested on more than one occasion during the year.

It is therefore not possible to compare the arrest data with data on the number of persons who have a DNA sample taken or the number of subject sample profiles added to the National DNA Database (NDNAD) or give a figure for the percentage of arrested persons who have a DNA sample taken.

Available data obtained from police forces in England and Wales indicate that over 673,000 persons had a DNA sample taken in 2006-07 and 667,737 DMA subject sample profiles were loaded to the National DNA Database. This would represent around 576,250 individuals, taking account of the estimated subject sample profile replication rate which is currently 13.7 per cent.

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) has produced guidance for police officers on the use of DNA. The guidance states that a DNA sample should be taken from anyone who is detained at a police station and has been arrested for a recordable offence and:

- who is a new offender and therefore does not have a PNC record or who does not already have a DNA profile on the National DNA Database; and
- who has not had a DNA sample same taken during the course of the investigation.

Asylum

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received from Refugee Action on its report The Destitution Trap; and what estimate she has made of the number of asylum seekers living on the streets. [161750]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to my right hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether officials from her Department have made an assessment of the initiative of the Hotham Mission in Melbourne, Australia relating to asylum seekers. [161853]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to my right hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Asylum: Appeals

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department *(a)* received notice from the Asylum and Immigration Tribunal of the Judge's decision in the case of Mr M.I., sponsored by Mr R.A. of Aylesbury, (appeal reference VA/31440/2006, FCO number 1198381), and *(b)* notified H.M. High Commission, Islamabad, of the outcome of the appeal. [146723]

Mr. Byrne: I will write to the hon. Member.

Asylum: Applications

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* Iraqi, *(b)* Afghan and *(c)* Somali nationals have been waiting for determination of an application for indefinite leave to remain in the UK for more than (i) six, (ii) 12 and (iii) 24 months; and if he will make a statement. [139246]

Mr. Byrne: The available information is listed in the following table.

Non-asylum indefinite leave to remain applications made in the UK awaiting consideration over each of the listed periods as of 31 May 2007 for the timescales and nationalities shown[1]

	6 to < 12 months	*12 to < 24 months*	*24 months and over*
Iraq	450	475	150
Afghanistan	100	250	150
Somalia	75	150	375
Total	625	875	675

[1] Figures are rounded to the nearest 25.

Note:
This table includes applications submitted under a range of categories, including those from applicants here illegally or have substantively overstayed their leave in the UK.

Source:
The data is not provided under National Statistic protocols. It has been derived from local management information and is therefore provisional subject to change.

Asylum: Children

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children went missing from the local authority areas around Heathrow and Gatwick while under immigration control in each of the last three years. [148159]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* The Border and Immigration Agency is committed to keeping children safe from harm and believes that it is vital that there is a closer relationship with children in the immigration process. The Agency is developing a programme of work to underpin this principle. Part of this includes a recently completed consultation exercise on better planning and support for unaccompanied asylum seeking children. The findings from this exercise will be published soon. Among the proposals will be plans to ensure that UASC are in future placed with "specialist" local authorities who can demonstrate that they have the expertise to deal with the children's particular needs. It will be especially important to ensure that measures are in place to monitor and deal effectively with children who go missing from local authority care, including those who have been trafficked.

Children from abroad who arrive at Gatwick and Heathrow airports and require social services assistance generally become the responsibility of West Sussex county council and the London borough of Hillingdon respectively. West Sussex has reported that in the years 2004 to 2006 50 such children went missing or left care without explanation. Hillingdon has reported that in 2006 74 children went missing or left their care placement without informing their carers where they were going to live. It has advised that figures for 2004 and 2005 are available only at disproportionate cost.

Asylum: East of England

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of support of asylum seekers was to each local authority in the East of England in each year since 1997. [159227]

Mr. Byrne: The information requested is set out and is based upon returns submitted by local authorities to the Department for Communities and Local Government. Funding for local authorities' responsibilities in the area of asylum seekers is met by central Government through a combination of formula grant and by specific grants from the Home Office.

Information is only available from 1999 onwards. The information for 2006-07 has been taken from the indicative budget prepared by local authorities for that year.

Net current expenditure on asylum seekers in East of England local authorities; 1998-99 to 2007-08

£000

Local authority	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Luton UA	273	1,837	4,746	4,715	3,940	3,232	2,313	1,355	1,073
Bedfordshire	204	1,243	2,327	2,167	1,211	624	368	268	337
Bedford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mid Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peterborough UA	49	236	907	1,071	1,790	21	1,781	1,159	1,700

Net current expenditure on asylum seekers in East of England local authorities; 1998-99 to 2007-08

£000

Local authority	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Cambridgeshire	251	989	2,026	2,285	1,493	997	541	1,171	0
Cambridge	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Fenland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Huntingdonshire	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0
South Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Southend-on-Sea UA	258	0	2,602	2,675	2,321	2,180	1,457	1,150	1,319
Thurrock UA	87	1,567	2,623	2,869	3,655	3,050	1,910	0	173
Essex	219	1,836	2,429	2,099	2,050	2,208	2,720	2,062	1,960
Basildon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Braintree	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Brentwood	0	0	52	0	0	0	0	0	0
Castle Point	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Chelmsford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Colchester	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Epping Forest	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Harlow	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Maldon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rochford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Tendring	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uttlesford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hertfordshire	391	-539	4,696	5,896	3,753	2,777	2,081	581	0
Broxbourne	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dacorum	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Hertfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hertsmere	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Hertfordshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Albans	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Stevenage	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Three Rivers	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Watford	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Welwyn Hatfield	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Norfolk	224	539	1,256	1,286	1,149	1,115	863	604	1,309
Breckland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Broadland	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Great Yarmouth	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
King's Lynn and West Norfolk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Norfolk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Norwich	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
South Norfolk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suffolk	16	436	1,024	494	477	440	375	322	121
Babergh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Forest Heath	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ipswich	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mid Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
St. Edmundsbury	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suffolk Coastal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Waveney	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bedfordshire Police Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire Police Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Norfolk Police Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Suffolk Police Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Net current expenditure on asylum seekers in East of England local authorities; 1998-99 to 2007-08

£000

Local authority	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Essex Police Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hertfordshire Police Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Bedfordshire Combined Fire Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cambridgeshire Combined Fire Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Essex Combined Fire Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
The Broads Authority	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1,972	8,144	24,690	25,558	21,840	16,644	14,409	8,672	7,992

Sources:
1. Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn (RO) returns 1998-99 to 2005-06
2. Communities and Local Government Revenue Account (PA) budget returns 2006-07
which can be reviewed at: http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/natstats.htm#rev

Asylum: Housing

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many complaints were made in each UK region against private contractors providing homes for asylum seekers in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; how many have been made in 2007-08; and if she will make a statement. [161157]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on using private contractors to provide homes for asylum seekers in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; and how much it has spent in 2007-08. [161158]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the value was of the largest contract made with private contractors to provide homes for asylum seekers in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; and what the value is of the largest contract made in 2007-08. [161159]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Asylum: Iraq

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Iraqi staff *(a)* working and *(b)* who formerly worked for the Government have applied for (i) exceptional leave to enter the UK and (ii) resettlement in the UK through the UK's Gateway Refugee Settlement Programme. [158277]

Mr. Byrne: I am advised by officials that no applications have yet been received by the Border and Immigration Agency.

BAE Systems

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date her Department received the original mutual legal assistance request from the US Department of Justice on BAE Systems; what representations her Department has received from *(a)* the US Administration, *(b)* BAE Systems, *(c)* other Government Departments and *(d)* other persons about the progress of the mutual legal assistance request; and on what dates these representations were made. [161454]

Meg Hillier: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has forwarded a copy of the US Department of Justice's mutual legal assistance request on BAE Systems to *(a)* the Serious Fraud Office and *(b)* another law enforcement agency. [161455]

Meg Hillier: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Edinburgh, West, of 19 July 2007, *Official Report,* column 504W, on the BAE Systems inquiry, what protocols are encompassed by the phrase 'considered in the usual way'. [161594]

Meg Hillier: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Border and Immigration Agency: Disciplinary Proceedings

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many members of staff of the Border and Immigration Agency and those working under contract for her Department and its agencies *(a)* were formally warned, *(b)* were dismissed and *(c)* faced other disciplinary actions as a result of mistreating those being removed from the UK in each of the last three years. [160170]

Mr. Byrne: In each of the last three years no Border and Immigration Agency (BIA) staff were disciplined as a result of mistreating those being removed from the UK. With regards to those working under contract for BIA and its agencies, our records show that two people were formally warned, two people were dismissed and two people faced other disciplinary action during 2006 only. The figures relate to contracted staff involved in the escorting of individuals being removed from the UK.

Border and Immigration Agency: Uniforms

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department and the Border and Immigration Agency spent on *(a)* the design and *(b)* the production of uniforms for immigration officers in the last 12 months. [156979]

Mr. Byrne: I will write to the hon. Member.

British Nationality: Fraud

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* charged, *(b)* convicted, *(c)* imprisoned and *(d)* deported because of immigration and nationality crimes involving bogus educational colleges in the latest period for which figures are available. [161031]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Chinese Community: Greater London

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to work with Chinatown employers on the issue of migrant workers; and if she will make a statement. [161730]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department by whom and for what reasons television and other media were invited to attend the raid in Chinatown on 11 October; and if she will make a statement. [161734]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were detained as alleged illegal migrants as a result of the Border and Immigration Agency raid in Chinatown on 11 October; how many of those people were released, as legal workers; what the longest period was a detainee was held; how many *(a)* remain in detention, *(b)* await removal and *(c)* have been removed; which countries and regions the people detained were from; how many were from each country or region; and if she will make a statement. [161742]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* Border and Immigration Agency staff and *(b)* police officers were involved in the Chinatown raid on 11 October; and if she will make a statement. [161745]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what documents restaurateurs involved in the raids by the Border and Immigration Agency on 11 October were asked to sign; and if she will make a statement. [161747]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for how long those detained following the raids in Chinatown on 11 October were held before they were given *(a)* food and *(b)* drink; and if she will make a statement. [161721]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make a statement on the meeting attended by Border and Immigration Agency officials in Chinatown on 18 October. [161722]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on the protest in London's Chinatown which involved closure of several restaurants on 18 October; and if she will make a statement. [161723]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department at what stage those detained on 11 October during the raid in London's Chinatown by the Border and Immigration Agency were afforded access to legal advice; and if she will make a statement. [161725]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will meet the London Chinatown Chinese Association to discuss immigration issues. [161726]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Crime Prevention: Bedfordshire

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps Bedfordshire Police are taking to improve the implementation of neighbourhood policing; and if she will make a statement. [159694]

Mr. McNulty: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Crime: Drugs

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crack cocaine dealers were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* sentenced in (i) England, (ii) the North East and (iii) Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland in each of the last 10 years [161672]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Crime: Greater London

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many offences were recorded for *(a)* violence against the person, *(b)* sexual offences, *(c)* burglary, *(d)* robbery and *(e)* theft from a vehicle in each London borough in each year since 1998; and what changes were made to the methodology for calculating the number of offences in each case in that period; [158125]

(2) what the percentage crime detection rate for *(a)* violence against the person, *(b)* sexual offences, *(c)* burglary, *(d)* robbery and *(e)* theft from a vehicle was in each London borough in each year since 1998; and what changes were made to the methodology for calculating the detection rate in each case in that period. [158126]

Mr. McNulty: Recorded crime data at basic command unit (BCU) level is only available from 1999-2000 onwards. BCU figures for burglary in 1999-2000 are only available for burglary in a dwelling. Figures for 2000-01 onwards are for all burglary offences i.e. burglary in a dwelling and other burglary.

The National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) was introduced nationally across England and Wales in April 2002 to promote greater consistency between police forces in the recording of crime and to take a more victim orientated approach to crime recording. Also, from April 2002 onwards, some offence groups, including violence against the person and sexual offences, were amended to reflect a newly defined subgroup of offences. Therefore, figures before and after this date are not directly comparable.

The available figures are given in tables placed in the House Libraries. Tables 1a and 1b provide the number of offences, and tables 2a and 2b, the percentage detection rates recorded by the two BCUs within the City of London police and the 33 BCUs within the Metropolitan police.

Crime: Hospitals

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government has taken to reduce levels of crime in hospitals and health centres since 1997. [161269]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Crime: West Midlands

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government has taken to encourage the police force to work with local communities to tackle crime in the West Midlands since 1997. [161271]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994: Stop and Search

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 April 2007, *Official Report*, column 604W, on stop and search, what the *(a)* gender, *(b)* ethnicity and *(c)* age was of each person stopped under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 in each year since the relevant provisions came into force. [161181]

Mr. McNulty: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departments: Human Rights Act

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many civil law suits have been brought against her Department based either wholly or partially on grounds provided by the Human Rights Act 1998; how many were settled out of court, before a court judgment was delivered; and how much such settlements cost the public purse since 1998. [160698]

Jacqui Smith: The Home Office deals with several thousand cases a year, and litigants frequently rely on arguments based on the Human Rights Act in addition to their other claims. Home Office records do not distinguish cases where the Human Rights Act is invoked from cases where it is not. Consequently it is not possible to provide a detailed answer without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departments: Disabled People

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which buildings occupied by her Department *(a)* are and *(b)* are not fully accessible to disabled people; and if she will make a statement. [161167]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departments: Finance

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which programmes funded by his Department have experienced a real terms reduction in their annual budget for the 2007-08 financial year; and what the budget *(a)* was in 2006-07 and *(b)* is in 2007-08 in each case. [140020]

Mr. Byrne: I will write to the hon. Member.

Departments: Manpower

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were employed by her Department on 1 January in each of the last five years; and how many of these staff were *(a)* permanent employees, *(b)* temporary staff and *(c)* contractors. [158316]

Mr. Byrne: Information on the total number of staff employed by the Home Office in 2007 is published by the Office for National Statistics. Please see Table six of the Quarterly Public Sector Employment First Release (31 March 2007),

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/pdfdir/pse0607.pdf .

This is the official source of workforce numbers for the civil service, which provides a breakdown of permanent and temporary/casual employees by Department.

Pre-2007 the source is Table A of the Civil Service Statistics publication:

2006 (30 September)

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=2899&Pos=&ColRank=1&Rank=422

2005(1 April)

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/reports/2005/tables_and_charts/index.asp

2004 (1 April)

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/reports/2004/tables_and_charts/index.asp

2003 (1 April)

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/management/statistics/reports/2003/tables_and_charts/index.asp

Please note that in 2005 and 2006 the Civil Service Statistics were not published with the permanent and temporary/casual breakdown, a workbook is attached to this letter with this additional information.

Figures are provided in the following table.

Statistics on the number of contractors employed by Departments are not published. The civil service statistics represent those employees paid directly from the Department's payroll. Any contractors employed via agencies and so not paid directly by the Department are not included.

Civil service employment at 30 September 2006

	Headcount permanent	*Headcount temporary/casual*	*Headcount total*	*FTE permanent*	*FTE temporary/casual*	*FTE total*
Home Office	22,030	460	22,490	20,910	420	21,330
Criminal Records Bureau	380	10	390	360	10	370
HM Prison Service	47,900	1,140	49,040	46,640	1,090	47,730
Identity and passport office	3,650	20	3,680	3,200	20	3,220

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of employees in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by her Department are above state retirement age. [158951]

Mr. Byrne: Total number of people employed above retirement age by the Home Office and its Executives agencies are:

	Total active permanent staff as of September 2007	*Number of men above 65 and women above 60 years of age*	*Percentage of total*
Home Office headquarters	3,703	23	0.61
Border and Immigration Agency	17,570	59	0.33
Identity and Passport Service	4,029	54	1.34
Criminal Records Bureau	422	1	0.20

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any of her Department's special advisers have declared a conflict of interest. [160790]

Jacqui Smith: Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract for Special Advisers. Copies of the Model Contract are available in the Libraries of the House.

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions she has visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [158920]

Jacqui Smith: I will write to the hon. Member.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what departmental budget items have been reclassified, under Consolidated Budgeting Guidance, following Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 decisions; and what the *(a)* former and *(b)* new (i) classification and (ii) sum budgeted is in each case. [160395]

Mr. Byrne: There is only one reclassification relating to the Home Office as a result of the comprehensive spending review.

This results from the transfer of the General Register Office (GRO) in England and Wales from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) to the Home Office as part of making the ONS independent of Ministers. The GRO will become part of the Identity and Passport Service, an Executive agency of the Home Office from 1 April 2008.

The GRO has a budget of £8.1 million which is being reclassified from admin to programme. This is because much of its work relates to frontline service delivery in the form of providing a registration service of births, deaths and marriages to members of the general public.

Departments: Publicity

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's projected spending is on advertising and promotional campaigns for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09, broken down by cost relating to (i) television, (ii) radio and (iii) print media. [155894]

Jacqui Smith: I will write to the hon. Member.

Departments: Staff Exit Schemes

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on *(a)* involuntary and *(b)* voluntary staff exit schemes in (i) his Department and (ii) each agency of the Department in each year since 1997-98; how much is planned to be spent for 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [123917]

Jacqui Smith: I will write to the hon. Member.

Departments: Retirement

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many employees in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by her Department applied to continue to work beyond state retirement age in the latest year or part thereof for which figures are available; and how many of those applications were successful. [161285]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departments: Sick Leave

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people took sick leave for stress in her Department in the last 12 months; and what percentage of the total staff number this represents. [135470]

Mr. Byrne: I will write to the hon. Member.

Departments: Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of Questions tabled to her Department for answer on a named day received a substantive reply on the day named in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [161349]

Mr. McNulty: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Deportation

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 18 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1478W, on deportation, and with reference to the letters of 9 February 2006 and 3 April 2006 from her Department's Immigration and Nationality Directorate to the hon. Member for Aylesbury, on what date her Department provided to HM High Commission, Kingston, the notice of refusal and associated papers in the case of Mr E. A., husband of Mrs J. A. of Aylesbury (reference A505053); and if she will make a statement. [145087]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 25 June 2007]:* I will write to the hon. Member.

Deportation: Sri Lanka

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her Department's policy not to issue removal directions in respect of Tamils who claim that their return to Sri Lanka might expose them to risk of treatment in violation of the European Convention on Human Rights pending the adoption of a lead judgment in one or more of the applications already communicated under Rule 39. [161637]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Detention Centres: Admissions

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what she expects the bed capacity to be in the Immigration Detention Estate in each of the next five years. [156975]

Mr. Byrne: The Border and Immigration Agency currently has 10 removal centres which provide a total of 2,533 detention bedspaces. The future size of the detention estate is being reviewed and until this is completed no figures are available for the planned number of bedspaces for the next five years.

Dogs: Council Housing

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government plans to consider the introduction of a ban on certain dog breeds in council properties. [161783]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Domestic Violence: Wales

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many women in Wales reported incidents of domestic violence in each of the last five years; and what measures are in place to support women who report domestic violence. [161116]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond to my right hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Drugs Liaison Officers

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drugs liaison officers were in post in each country in each of the last 10 years. [161219]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Drugs: East Midlands

Mr. Skinner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted of drugs offences in the East Midlands in each of the last six years. [161056]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Drugs: Misuse

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government have taken to reduce levels of drug addiction in the UK since 1997. [157715]

Mr. Coaker: The Government initiated in 1998, a 10 year national Drug Strategy which introduced a comprehensive and multi-faceted approach to tackling the harms caused by drugs through a focus on prevention, education, early intervention, treatment and strong enforcement. This approach has delivered results.

British Crime Survey data collected since 1996 shows that, at 10.0 per cent. overall, use of any illicit drug in the last year by 16 to 59-year-olds is at its lowest level since the British Crime Survey (BCS) started measurement.

The Young People and Drugs Programme has been established which provides a range of universal, targeted and specialist services for young people, including vulnerable groups. The FRANK campaign has been launched to inform young people and their parents and carers about the dangers and risks involved with drug use. The Positive Futures Programme has been established to provide diversionary activities for young people at risk of drug misuse.

The Government have significantly increased investment in treatment services which has seen record numbers of drug users accessing structured treatment. A national target to double the number of users in treatment by 2008 has already been achieved two years earlier than anticipated.

New innovative approaches to tackle the link between drugs and acquisitive crime and promote treatment including new legislation, new sentencing measures and the Drug Interventions Programme (DIP) have been introduced. Over 3,000 drug misusing offenders per month are now entering treatment through the programme. Since the introduction of DIP, recorded acquisitive crime—to which drug-related crime makes a significant contribution—has fallen by 20 per cent.

Tough legislation has also been introduced to reduce the incentives for individuals and organised criminal groups to become involved in dealing and trafficking. Increasing quantities of drugs are being seized and organised crime groups and dealers disrupted.

The Government want to build upon the good progress made to date which is why we have been consulting on the development of the new Drug Strategy.

Drugs: Smuggling

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drug mules were intercepted at UK airports from *(a)* Jamaica, *(b)* Ghana and *(c)* Nigeria in each of the last 10 years. [161218]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Entry Clearances

Martin Linton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reach a decision in the cases of Mr. T.S. (Home Office ref S1119245) and Mr. T.M. (Home Office ref M1128325) who have been refused leave to remain but whose wives and children have subsequently been granted asylum. [152970]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 26 July 2007]:* I will write to my hon. Friend.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 24 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 346W, on entry clearances, whether she intends to collect and collate data on applications for indefinite leave to remain for individuals on a *(a)* constituency basis and *(b)* local authority area basis; and if she will make a statement. [161729]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Entry Clearances: Overseas Students

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many student visas were revoked in each of the last five years because students failed *(a)* to register at the beginning of the academic year and *(b)* to attend classes. [161032]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

EU Migrants

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the brief was for the report on EU migration flows commissioned by her Department from Christian Dustmann et al of University College; what the value was of the commission; what the basis was for selecting the team; which other teams were considered; and which other studies were analysed by the Department as part of its analysis of EU migration flows. [107242]

Mr. Byrne: I will write to the hon. Member.

Genetics: Criminal Investigation

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to page 35 of the National DNA Database Annual Report 2005-06, whether any of the 165,099 separate individuals who have been matched with a crime scene profile since May 2001 had any previous criminal convictions. [156038]

Jacqui Smith: The National DNA Database records the DNA profile for a particular individual. It does not hold data on arrest and criminal records. This information is held on the Police National Computer (PNC). Obtaining the information sought would require cross searching of records held on the PNC against the NDNAD, which could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Genetics: Databases

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many DNA profiles were added to the National DNA Database by each police force in *(a)* each year since it was launched and *(b)* each month in 2007; and if she will make a statement. [160736]

Meg Hillier: The number of profiles relating to individuals added to the Database by each police force in England and Wales in each year since its foundation in 1995, and each month in 2007, is shown in the following tables.

A certain number of profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates, i.e. a profile for a person has been loaded on more than one occasion (one reason for this is that the person gave different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests). At present the replication rate is 13.7 per cent. i.e. the number of people whose details are loaded is 13.7 per cent. less than the number of profiles. However, as the replication rate has varied over time, an exact figure for the number of people who have been added to the database in each year since 1995 cannot be given.

NDNAD—profiles relating to individuals by force—England and Wales

	1995-96	*1996-97*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*
Avon and Somerset	501	1,360	2,402	6,860	5,174	7,735
Bedfordshire	256	525	797	1,535	1,534	3,436
British Transport	205	632	927	1,312	1,181	1,787
Cambridgeshire	462	1,050	1,545	2,425	1,617	3,384
Cheshire	304	1,272	2,43	3,091	2,274	7,292
City of London	667	1,538	1,965	2,642	1,515	1,342
Cleveland	583	1,102	1,530	1,502	1,524	4,620
Cumbria	118	392	1,039	3,222	1,556	4,069
Derbyshire	1,268	2,758	2,772	4,648	3,290	4,943
Devon and Cornwall	886	2,076	3,256	5,184	4,485	9,598
Dorset	248	420	615	866	642	5,164
Durham	550	860	1,574	4,259	1,958	3,817
Dyfed-Powys	830	1,409	2,346	3,435	1,784	3,955
Essex	929	1,493	2,691	5,326	5,006	8,894
Gloucestershire	242	620	713	1,857	1,921	5,426
Greater Manchester	729	3,819	6,608	7,166	5,955	21,100
Gwent	585	1,320	2,076	2,657	3,321	6,005
Hampshire	1,191	2,122	3,404	5,216	3,421	12,517
Hertfordshire	473	727	967	1,446	983	6,262
Humberside	539	2,044	9,295	11,017	4,260	6,893

NDNAD—profiles relating to individuals by force—England and Wales

	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01
Kent	836	2,059	2,551	4,763	3,380	12,026
Lancashire	1,143	2,674	4,678	4,934	4,980	9,786
Leicestershire	634	1,456	1,955	3,249	2,489	4,650
Lincolnshire	150	656	1,112	1,672	2,789	2,929
Merseyside	973	2,781	2,493	6,811	6,180	13,358
Metropolitan	4,699	9,980	13,165	39,141	51,712	64,039
Norfolk	406	1,812	3,788	6,835	4,413	4,649
North Wales	620	1,322	1,590	3,654	3,848	6,008
North Yorkshire	612	944	1,409	2,078	1,404	3,696
Northamptonshire	653	1,353	1,864	3,524	1,100	4,538
Northumbria	1,246	3,413	3,458	4,596	3,732	15,261
Nottinghamshire	129	526	3,057	7,202	2,777	9,670
South Wales	2,352	4,603	6,692	3,104	4,791	11,016
South Yorkshire	943	1,717	3,408	10,942	1,467	7,609
Staffordshire	480	733	1,235	8,368	4,759	4,827
Suffolk	0	123	1,413	2,020	1,048	3,974
Surrey	198	351	1,046	1,943	503	3,540
Sussex	826	1,666	1,693	1,570	3,899	10,475
Thames Valley	880	2,669	2,346	5,140	8,042	10,477
Warwickshire	144	300	623	1,408	731	2,478
West Mercia	849	1,400	1,464	2,308	3,797	6,293
West Midlands	1,058	4,949	7,169	17,852	11,607	13,894
West Yorkshire	1,698	4,332	6,741	10,611	8,614	17,913
Wiltshire	438	840	1,142	1,393	1,551	4,420
Total	33,533	80,198	125,053	230,787	192,994	375,765

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
Avon and Somerset	9,984	9,093	9,197	8,318	11,214	14,708
Bedfordshire	4,946	4,684	4,759	4,597	6,100	6,322
British Transport	3,603	3,808	3,944	4,021	7,439	9,376
Cambridgeshire	4,250	3,941	4,006	6,578	8,556	8,899
Cheshire	9,270	8,156	7,391	7,282	10,634	10,171
City of London	1,513	1,949	1,640	1,242	2,191	2,262
Cleveland	5,321	5,018	5,268	4,732	6,999	6,917
Cumbria	3,844	4,213	4,049	5,499	6,018	5,341
Derbyshire	7,407	6,512	7,092	9,204	11,806	14,823
Devon and Cornwall	12,783	10,342	9,719	10,072	12,132	14,860
Dorset	5,661	5,057	4,474	5,876	7,795	7,015
Durham	4,183	6,039	4,508	4,822	6,950	6,894
Dyfed-Powys	5,096	5,056	4,439	4,384	5,997	5,667
Essex	11,581	10,237	9,765	14,840	18,407	17,674
Gloucestershire	4,693	4,239	3,602	4,726	5,945	5,174
Greater Manchester	28,779	23,430	24,575	31,266	34,336	29,589
Gwent	6,664	4,516	4,013	3,680	5,227	5,816
Hampshire	15,887	14,192	14,030	15,476	20,758	15,490
Hertfordshire	7,527	7,877	7,162	8,199	12,918	9,940
Humberside	5,497	6,094	6,116	6,461	7,388	8,342
Kent	15,167	13,924	14,051	19,063	18,868	16,825
Lancashire	17,597	16,453	13,588	14,098	18,591	16,828
Leicestershire	6,006	6,024	6,419	8,150	9,816	8,499
Lincolnshire	3,922	3,866	4,168	5,681	6,729	7,327
Merseyside	12,298	16,067	13,076	8,375	13,030	14,561
Metropolitan	66,950	62,318	59,810	74,389	111,575	154,674
Norfolk	5,553	4,648	5,359	5,043	7,965	7,515
North Wales	5,037	5,002	4,715	6,270	7,111	6,351
North Yorkshire	5,968	5,395	5,297	5,859	8,545	7,655
Northamptonshire	3,779	3,581	3,231	3,398	5,442	5,693
Northumbria	21,495	19,195	17,826	17,375	18,809	20,328
Nottinghamshire	9,080	11,539	9,501	10,213	12,068	12,923
South Wales	13,678	11,180	10,143	10,686	14,884	11,586

	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
South Yorkshire	10,582	10,136	11,875	15,229	15,358	13,946
Staffordshire	9,905	7,928	10,155	11,836	12,242	11,163
Suffolk	5,249	5,099	5,455	4,942	5,312	6,374
Surrey	7,092	6,555	6,188	6,627	9,477	8,838
Sussex	11,227	9,753	11,022	13,426	15,489	15,371
Thames Valley	13,230	13,418	12,240	15,053	20,279	21,025
Warwickshire	3,659	3,079	3,091	2,651	3,762	5,164
West Mercia	8,408	7,668	7,569	8,168	8,791	10,318
West Midlands	30,945	32,747	32,419	26,358	35,836	41,818
West Yorkshire	19,837	19,693	19,928	19,999	29,432	32,393
Wiltshire	5,818	4,673	4,852	6,124	7,576	5,283
Total	470,971	444,395	431,727	480,288	625,797	667,738

	January 2007	February 2007	March 2007	April 2007	May 2007	June 2007	July 2007	August 2007	September 2007
Avon and Somerset	1,208	1,125	1,173	1,233	1,127	1,406	1,298	1,049	1,045
Bedfordshire	494	453	533	455	467	327	384	424	633
British Transport	897	834	875	555	627	770	536	699	504
Cambridgeshire	809	921	630	715	682	506	481	665	603
Cheshire	831	716	916	704	779	758	834	638	1,179
City of London	217	188	193	184	200	132	180	204	123
Cleveland	674	432	752	593	645	545	565	450	481
Cumbria	481	397	351	423	489	344	56	395	366
Derbyshire	1,126	1,183	1,705	1,416	849	750	886	544	889
Devon and Cornwall	1,370	1,064	880	944	1,103	1,057	1,560	714	1,317
Dorset	581	491	590	436	559	430	596	528	549
Durham	608	495	586	469	586	464	515	496	435
Dyfed-Powys	389	382	350	467	415	391	407	471	296
Essex	1,448	1,461	1,383	1,424	1,742	1,377	1,569	1,483	1,400
Gloucestershire	486	325	356	451	449	342	358	423	353
Greater Manchester	2,471	2,269	2,339	2,244	2,395	2,119	2,333	2,039	2,331
Gwent	339	429	578	508	441	394	381	687	305
Hampshire	894	773	2,614	1,913	1,345	932	1,509	1,259	1,774
Hertfordshire	818	808	799	765	863	705	891	748	664
Humberside	601	691	595	486	674	610	624	670	517
Kent	1,500	1,338	1,334	1,351	1,182	1,679	1,505	1,274	1,257
Lancashire	1,108	2,100	1,031	1,289	938	928	1,963	624	1,401
Leicestershire	684	588	694	230	785	426	1,150	512	572
Lincolnshire	609	1,220	344	503	600	491	467	705	554
Merseyside	990	1,141	1,423	1,135	2,817	1,429	1,615	1,331	1,376
Metropolitan	8,435	8,101	8,107	7,333	7,233	7,585	8,058	6,767	7,236
Norfolk	586	377	501	745	633	561	599	509	494
North Wales	622	350	695	163	792	560	541	584	352
North Yorkshire	662	655	578	650	629	584	834	635	481
Northamptonshire	470	424	352	369	525	353	540	294	512
Northumbria	1,285	2,131	1,591	1,378	1,510	1,806	2,823	1,449	763
Nottinghamshire	545	1,726	1,465	820	820	691	306	705	1,390
South Wales	831	846	947	819	965	807	992	907	985
South Yorkshire	1,265	1,033	1,221	1,058	1,417	1,040	1,313	1,260	1,129
Staffordshire	1,146	915	1,257	1,217	1,196	801	931	895	422
Suffolk	472	456	498	416	502	455	381	624	597
Surrey	737	629	684	652	690	769	644	722	490
Sussex	1,458	985	1,260	1,291	1,442	1,902	1,555	1,289	1,423
Thames Valley	1,719	1,445	1,995	2,037	2,069	1,941	1,951	1,805	1,783
Warwickshire	560	334	414	480	230	608	369	636	359
West Mercia	966	726	724	804	926	729	899	698	681
West Midlands	3,697	3,201	2,767	2,763	3,211	2,863	2,526	3,479	2,749
West Yorkshire	2,534	2,227	2,197	1,473	3,062	2,217	2,480	1,932	2,052

	January 2007	February 2007	March 2007	April 2007	May 2007	June 2007	July 2007	August 2007	September 2007
Wiltshire	529	366	372	212	290	538	356	532	501
Total	50,152	48,751	50,649	45,573	50,902	46,123	51,287	44,754	45,323

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of DNA profiles on the National DNA database relate to individuals aged *(a)* under 16, *(b)* 16 to 18, *(c)* 19 to 20, *(d)* 21 to 30, *(e)* 31 to 40, *(f)* 41 to 50, *(g)* 51 to 60 and *(h)* over 60 years, broken down by police force area; and if she will make a statement. [160737]

Meg Hillier: The information requested has been placed in the Library. The figures given are the number of subject sample profiles retained on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) at 25 October 2007 which were taken by forces in England and Wales only. They include over 26,000 subject sample profiles taken from volunteers. The data is based on the current age of the subjects as at 25 October 2007.

It is currently estimated that 13.7 per cent. of profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates, i.e. that a profile for a person has been loaded on more than one occasion (one reason for this is that the person gave different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests). Thus, the number of individuals on the database is approximately 13.7 per cent. less than the number of subject profiles. The presence of these replicate profiles on the NDNAD does not impact on the effectiveness and integrity of the database. Nonetheless, a long-term exercise is under way to identify issues associated with the removal of all such redundant replicate profiles.

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people whose DNA is held on the national database that have committed no offence are *(a)* male and *(b)* female; and if she will make a statement. [161548]

Meg Hillier: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children in *(a)* the East of England and *(b)* Suffolk have their DNA stored on a database; and how many of those have been charged with committing a criminal offence. [161611]

Meg Hillier: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Heathrow Airport: Standards

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to reduce the levels of disruption caused by queues at Heathrow airport passport control. [160489]

Mr. Byrne: I will write to the hon. Member.

Human Trafficking

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what incompatibilities there are between the requirements of the Council of Europe Convention on Action on Trafficking in Human Beings and domestic immigration legislation. [161233]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Human Trafficking: Cross Border Co-operation

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to adopt the Interpol global database system that allows border checks to be made on fraudulent documents as another method to tackle human trafficking. [161028]

Mr. McNulty: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Human Trafficking: EC Countries

Lorely Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government plans to support the EU anti-trafficking hotline that is being established. [161030]

Mr. McNulty: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Illegal Immigrants

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants were found at each of the 57 ports of entry to the UK in each year since 2002. [156307]

Jacqui Smith: The information requested for 2002 is not available due to a change in our data collation systems in 2003. Locally collated management information for 2003 to 2006 is provided in Table 1. This data may be subject to change and does not represent National Statistics. These figures relate predominantly to clandestine entrants but may also include other categories of illegal entry.

Illegal entry action is initiated against those people who are detected having entered or attempted to enter the country clandestinely or by means of deception, either verbal or documentary. These figures include those illegal entrants detected both at ports of entry and inland.

National Statistics on the number of persons against whom illegal entry action was initiated are not separately identifiable from the total number of persons removed for periods from 2003 owing to data quality issues. 2004 figures were published in the command paper "Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2004", but these were recalled the following year after a re-assessment of their quality found the figures to be unsuitable for publication as National Statistics.

Official statistics on immigration matters are available from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Table 1: Illegal immigrants found at UK ports, 2003 to 2005[1]

Initiating Port/Local Enforcement Office	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2003-06*
Aberdeen Immigration Service	70	18	6	—	94
Ashford Immigration Ports Office	2	—	—	1	3
Belfast International Airport	4	1	—	1	6
Birmingham International Airport	—	—	1	—	1
Boston Lines	112	164	—	—	276
Cardiff International Airport	—	—	694	—	694
Cheriton Immigration Ports Office	—	—	—	7	7
Dorset Ports Office	11	—	1	127	139
Dover East Immigration Ports Office	—	2	—	—	2
Dover Hoverport Immigration Port Office	—	—	309	—	309
East Midlands Airport	19	25	3	—	47
Edinburgh Airport Immigration Service	23	27	88	—	138
Felixstowe	40	167	4	99	310
Fishguard	5	1	—	—	6
Glasgow Airport	1	—	—	—	1
Harwich Immigration Service	38	21	1	2	62
Heathrow TN4	—	—	14	—	14
Hull	105	155	7	—	267
Humberside Airport	134	77	1	28	240
Leeds Bradford Airport	2	3	1	—	6
Lerwick Immigration Service	2	—	—	—	2
Lincoln	5	5	—	—	10
Liverpool John Lennon Airport	—	1	35	1	37
Newcastle Immigration Service	1	1	—	—	2
Newhaven Immigration Service	6	23	45	12	86
North Shields Immigration Service	31	105	59	—	195
Norwich Airport	26	10	—	—	36
Plymouth Immigration Service	13	50	109	80	252
Plymouth Ports Office	—	—	—	2	2
Portsmouth Ports Office	—	—	40	75	115
Ramsgate	1	—	—	6	7
Stansted Immigration Service Port	—	—	—	1	1
Tees Ports Office	11	27	—	20	58
Teesside International Airport (old)	6	—	—	—	6
Tilbury Ports Office	—	—	—	9	9
Waterloo Immigration Service	—	—	—	7	7
Total	1,307	2,943	3,411	5,640	13,301

[1] The data provided is based on locally collated management information, which may be subject to change and does not represent published national statistics.

The Border and Immigration Agency also categorise four foreign ports as 'ports of entry' where we station offshore border controls. The number of illegal immigrants detected at these ports is as follows.

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*Number 2003-06*
Calais Ferryport Immigration Ports Office	3	1,006	1,965	3,722	6,696
Calais Hoverport Immigration Ports Office	—	—	—	—	1
Coquelles Immigration Ports Office	636	882	20	620	2,158
Dunkerque Immigration Ports Office	—	172	7	820	999

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were seized as stowaways in trucks in each of the last five years. [161838]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was raised from fines of drivers of vehicles carrying stowaways in each year since the inception of such fines. [161839]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Immigrants: Criminal Records

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many escapes there were from immigration detention centres in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; how many of those who escaped had criminal records; what categories of crimes they had committed; how many of them remain at large; how many of them who were recaptured had committed crimes while on the run; and what those crimes were. [154935]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* I am advised by officials that over the last 10 years the Border and Immigration Agency has overseen the removal of 501,600 people. The information readily available shows that 348 individuals have escaped in the detention process.

Information on whether the individuals concerned had criminal records and for what categories of crime, the number of individuals remaining at large and whether any crimes have been committed by the individuals concerned is not available and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Immigration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the oral answer of 15 October 2007, *Official Report,* column 548, on inward migration, how many and what percentage of migrants to the UK were *(a)* EEA nationals, *(b)* non-EEA nationals, *(c)* dependants and *(d)* students in each of the last five years. [161727]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Immigration Controls

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigration officers were located at *(a)* Heathrow and *(b)* Gatwick airports on 30 August (i) 2007, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2005, (iv) 2004, (v) 2003, (vi) 2002 and (vii) 2001; and if she will make a statement. [155533]

Mr. Byrne: I will write to the hon. Member.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent submissions she has received on UK embarkation controls; and if she will make a statement. [161385]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Immigration Officers

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the 800 new immigration officers have been *(a)* appointed and *(b)* seconded from the police service; and if she will make a statement. [113924]

Mr. Byrne: I will write to my hon. Friend.

Immigration Officers: Airports

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent immigration officers have been employed screening incoming passengers at *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* Gatwick and *(c)* Stansted in each of the last 12 months. [156186]

Mr. Byrne: I will write to the hon. Member.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what targets are set for maximum waiting times at *(a)* EU and *(b)* non-EU immigration desks at (i) Heathrow, (ii) Stansted and (iii) Gatwick; and what performance was achieved against these targets in the most recent period for which figures are available. [156185]

Mr. Byrne: I will write to the hon. Member.

Immigration Officers: Police

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reply to Question 113924, on immigration officers, tabled by the hon. Member for Thurrock on 5 January 2007 for answer on 9 January 2007. [161333]

Mr. Byrne: I will write to my hon. Friend.

Immigration Service

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what bonus payments were made to officials in the Immigration and Nationality Directorate in each of the last five years; how much each such payment was worth; and what the total was of such payments. [102388]

Mr. Byrne: I will write to the hon. Member.

Immigration: EC Countries

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what studies her Department has conducted into the *(a)* potential effects of the impending transition of Schengen area EU states including Poland, Slovakia and Hungary on border control systems of nations such as Ukraine and *(b)* knock-on impact on UK immigration policy. [161199]

Meg Hillier: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the likely effects of the impending transition of Schengen area EU states including Poland, Slovakia and Hungary on the unskilled and semi-skilled sectors of the UK labour markets. [161200]

Meg Hillier: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Immigration: France

Colin Burgon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of levels of migration to the UK by individuals from French overseas departments and former French colonies since 2002. [161201]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Immigration: Heathrow Airport

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average waiting time was at immigration for non-EEA citizens entering the UK via London Heathrow Terminal 1 in the first six months of 2007. [161639]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average waiting time was at immigration for non-EEA citizens entering the UK via London Heathrow Terminal 3 in the first six months of 2007. [161640]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average waiting time was at immigration for non-EEA citizens entering the UK via London Heathrow Terminal 2 in the first six months of 2007. [161641]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average waiting time was at immigration for non-EEA citizens entering the UK via London Heathrow Terminal 4 in the first six months of 2007. [161642]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Immigration: Gatwick Airport

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average waiting time was at immigration for non-EEA citizens entering the UK via London Gatwick South Terminal in the first six months of 2007. [161643]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Woking dated 29 March 2007 regarding Mr. Evans, ref. N7737/7. [148492]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* I will write to the hon. Member.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to *(a)* the letter to her predecessor from the hon. Member for Woking dated 29 March 2007 regarding Mr. Evans N7737/7 (148492) and *(b)* Question 148492 tabled by the hon. Member for Woking on 4 July 2007 on the same subject. [159096]

Mr. Byrne: I will write to the hon. Member.

Mr. Allen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reply to the correspondence of 9 October 2007 from the hon. Member for Nottingham North on the report by Lord Stevens on "A commentary on the crime situation in Nottingham: celebrating success"; and if she will make a statement. [159342]

Mr. Coaker: I will write to my hon. Friend.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reply to the letter of 25 September from the hon. Member for Walsall, North on a constituent, ref: B26912/7. [161601]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Winnick: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to reply to the letter of 26 September from the hon. Member for Walsall, North on a constituent, ref: M19351/7. [161602]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Merseyside Police: Modernisation

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on the compatibility of aspects of the restructuring of the Merseyside police with the framework laid down by her workforce modernisation agenda. [161154]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to my right hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Muktar Ibrahim

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral answer to the hon. Member for North-West Norfolk (Mr. Bellingham) on 11 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1437-38W, on Muktar Ibrahim, (1) what the basis was for her statement that Muktar Ibrahim's successful application for citizenship and the wiping off of his offences as a juvenile would not happen now; and to what statutory provisions she was making reference; [150410]

(2) what the legislative basis was for her statement that Muktar Ibrahim would have been deported from this country under new laws; and to what statutory provisions she was making reference. [150411]

Mr. Byrne: I will write to the hon. Member.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to question 150410, on Muktar Ibrahim, tabled by the hon. Member for Ashford on 12 July. [156981]

Mr. Byrne: I will write to the hon. Member.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will reply to written question 150411, on Muktar Ibrahim, tabled by the hon. Member for Ashford on 12 July. [156982]

Mr. Byrne: I will write to the hon. Member.

Offenders: Deportation

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners were deported or removed from the UK in each year from 2002 to 2006; and how many have been deported or removed in 2007. [161816]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Nick Herbert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners are subject to deportation notices. [161817]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners are subject to deportation notices. [161823]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. and learned Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign national prisoners were deported or removed in each year from 2002 to 2006; and how many have been deported or removed in 2007. [161824]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. and learned Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Offensive Weapons: Coventry

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government has taken to reduce levels of knife crime in Coventry since 1997. [161270]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Passports: Airports

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what measures are being introduced to cope with the situation of people arriving at airports in the UK without the passports with which they checked in at their departure airport. [161235]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Passports: Biometrics

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Prime Minister's statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 841-45, on national security, whether EU citizens will be regarded as foreign nationals for this purpose; whether a biometric passport is a satisfactory form of biometric ID for this purpose; and whether it will be an offence for a relevant person not to carry or be able to produce biometric ID. [153959]

Mr. Byrne: Further to the Prime Minister's security statement of 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, columns 841-45, I can advise that UKvisas, the joint Home Office and Foreign and Commonwealth Office directorate with responsibility for issuing visas to non-EEA nationals, are on track to roll-out the requirement that, by the end of March 2008, all visa nationals and all non-EEA nationals seeking to stay in the United Kingdom for more than six months, are required to provide their biometric data as part of the visa application process.

The Prime Minister's statement also related to our plans in the UK Borders Bill to require non-EEA nationals subject to immigration control and already in the UK to apply for a 'Biometric Immigration Document'. This will be achieved incrementally with the process starting before the end of 2008. It will not be compulsory for a person to carry a 'Biometric Immigration Document' at all times following Government amendments to the UK Borders Bill.

Passports: Forgery

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what stage the Document Scanning Equipment with Forgery Detection Capability Tender for *(a)* Heathrow, *(b)* other airports and *(c)* Eurotunnel has reached. [161236]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Police

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect of increasing population on the delivery of policing services in *(a)* Government designated growth areas and *(b)* Northamptonshire. [160606]

Mr. McNulty: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Police: Armed Forces

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what schemes are in place to encourage forces personnel to join the police service. [161110]

Mr. McNulty: It has not proved possible to respond to my right hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Police: Derbyshire

Mr. Skinner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers in Derbyshire *(a)* retired and *(b)* took ill-health retirement in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [161055]

Mr. McNulty: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Police: Doctors

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost was to each police authority in England and Wales of employing healthcare professionals at custody suites in each of the last five years. [161855]

Mr. McNulty: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Police: Finance

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what data her Department uses to assess the numbers of economic migrants in police authority areas in England and Wales. [161856]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what adjustments are made to the police formula grant for police authorities in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales to take account of the numbers of economic migrants in a particular police authority area. [161857]

Mr. McNulty: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what information her Department uses to estimate the numbers of tourists visiting police authority areas in England and Wales. [161858]

Mr. McNulty: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what adjustments are made to the police formula grant in England and Wales to take account of the numbers of tourists visiting a particular police authority area. [161859]

Mr. McNulty: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what total Government spending on policing per hundred thousand head of population is in each police authority area in 2007-08. [161865]

Mr. McNulty: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Police: Manpower

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the likely effect of budgetary plans on future police officer numbers, broken down by Government region; and if she will make a statement. [161547]

Mr. McNulty: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Police: Witnesses

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officer days have been lost by each police force in England and Wales as a result of officers appearing as witnesses in court. [161115]

Mr. McNulty: It has not proved possible to respond to my right hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Prisoners: Compensation

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what total sums were paid to foreign prisoners in compensation for unlawful detention in custody beyond the end of their sentences in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available. [161620]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. and learned Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Prisoners: Deportation

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to seek the deportation of foreign prisoners from the date of their conviction; and if she will make a statement. [161531]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 22 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1248W, to the hon. Member for Ashford (Damian Green), on offenders: deportation, what steps she has taken to ascertain the nationality, residential status and right to remain in the United Kingdom of the 879 prisoners held in England and Wales whose nationality is classified as unknown. [161615]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. and learned Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what safeguards are in place to ensure that deported convicted foreign nationals cannot return to the United Kingdom at a later date. [161617]

Mr. Byrne: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Prostitution

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many men were *(a)* arrested and *(b)* prosecuted for paying for sex in each of the last five years. [161301]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond to my right hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Sexual Offences: Vetting

Mr. Hood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the criteria are for the inclusion on the sex offenders list in England and Wales. [161852]

Mr. Coaker: It has not prove possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Smuggling: Firearms

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has received reports of illegal guns arriving in mainland Great Britain through the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland; and if she will make a statement. [161669]

Mr. Coaker: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Stop and Search

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times the power to authorise stop and search for offensive weapons within a specified area for the period of 24 hours under section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 was used by a senior police officer in each year since the Act came into force. [161135]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what *(a)* training and *(b)* written guidance is provided to police officers for the use of stop and search powers under (i) section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and (ii) section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000. [161136]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many stop and searches were carried out by police under section 44 of the Terrorism Act 2000 in each year since the Act's introduction; and how many and what percentage of those searches resulted in arrest. [161137]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Terrorism: Arrests

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been detained without charge on suspicion of terrorist offences for 28 days; and how many of these were *(a)* charged and *(b)* released without charge. [161571]

Jacqui Smith: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether any suspects detained without charge on suspicion of terrorist offences for 28 days and then released without charge have been subsequently re-arrested and charged with a terrorist offence. [161595]

Jacqui Smith: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Love: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many activists of organisations proscribed under terrorism legislation have been *(a)* arrested, *(b)* charged and *(c)* convicted for offences under that legislation in each year since its introduction; and if she will make a statement. [161879]

Mr. McNulty: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Vetting

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* basic and *(b)* enhanced checks the Criminal Records Bureau undertook for each Government Department and executive agency in the last year for which figures are available; [158124]

(2) how many *(a)* basic and *(b)* enhanced checks the Criminal Records Bureau has undertaken for home inspectors and energy inspectors. [158127]

Meg Hillier: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) does not issue basic disclosures.

In the year October 2006 to September 2007, the CRB has issued 66,459 enhanced disclosures to Government Departments and executive agencies. These are broken down as follows:

	Number
Ofsted Early Years	42,385
Ministry of Defence	13,085
HM Prison Service	3,023
Ministry Of Justice	2,216
Magistrates Branch Lord Chancellors Department	1,905
UK Immigration Service ISCAT	1,285
Identity and Passport Service (IPS)	506
Gambling Commission	439
Childrens Directorate Ofsted Early Years	438
Welsh Assembly Government	220
Department For Children, Schools and Families	213
Juvenile Offenders Unit	206
Independent Monitoring Boards Secretariat	111
Department For Children, Schools and Families	110
HM Inspectorate of Probation	97
National Probation Service Nottinghamshire	73
The Royal Parks Agency	38
National Probation Service North Wales Area	35
The Royal Household	26
Public Guardianship Office	15
The Highways Agency	12
Forestry Commission	9
The Veterans Agency	5
The Pension Service	3
Central Interpreters Unit Border and Immigration Agency	1
Child Support Agency	1
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	1
The Planning Inspectorate	1

Neither home inspectors nor energy inspectors are eligible for enhanced disclosures under current legislation. However, home inspectors have qualified for standard disclosures since October 2006 and the CRB has processed 877 such disclosures. Criminal Records Bureau checks on energy assessors are carried out by CRB Scotland.

Work Permits

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 5 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1769W, on work permits, how many work permits in each category of work permit carrying an entitlement to settle in the UK were granted in each year since 2000; and for which sectors they were issued. [127087]

Mr. Byrne: The granting and issue of a work permit does not carry an automatic entitlement to settle in the UK. Settlement applicants must meet the specific criteria and so it is not possible to provide information on the basis requested.

Work Permits: Health Professions

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 10 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1941W, on work permits: health professions, how many work permits were issued to doctors and nurses from foreign countries other than African states in each year from 1997 to 2006, broken down by country. [156253]

Mr. Byrne *[holding answer 8 October 2007]:* The table placed in the Libraries of the House shows the number of work permit applications which were approved for overseas nationals during the period 1998 to 2006 (excluding African countries). Data for 1997 and 1998 are not available. There have been no approvals for Auxiliary Nurses.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Written Questions

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when he expects to reply to Question 123917, on staff exit schemes, tabled by the hon. Member for Putney for answer on 26 February. [137167]

Mr. Byrne: I will write to the hon. Member.

TRANSPORT

A436: Cheltenham

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if she will provide funding *(a)* to make improvements to the A436 around Cheltenham and *(b)* to adopt other measures to reduce congestion in Cheltenham city centre. [160495]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* In the current financial year the Department for Transport has provided £20.788 million for transport in Gloucestershire. It is for the county council to determine how this funding is spent in line with the priorities and strategies identified in their second local transport plan. The plan identifies congestion as a problem in parts of the county, including around Cheltenham, but it is for the authority to decide whether spending on the A436 would address this.

The south west region as a whole has not identified A436 improvements as a priority for major scheme investment through the regional funding allocation process.

Airports: Public Transport

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 23 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 228-29W, on airports: public transport, what steps she is taking to ensure capital and revenue funding is in place for AirTrack to ensure the scheme is implemented; what meetings she has held with BAA and Network Rail to resolve the funding issues; and when she expects a final decision to be made on funding the capital revenue costs of the scheme. [161739]

Mr. Tom Harris: Airtrack is a private sector proposal and it is for the promoters to make the case for the scheme. We will need to be satisfied both that the capital costs can be met and about the need for future revenue support. The Department has regular meetings with the promoters to keep in touch with progress.

Aviation: Terrorism

Miss Widdecombe: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many acts of terrorism or attempted terrorism against aircraft have involved the use of *(a)* nail scissors and *(b)* lip gloss. [161612]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has no record of such incidents.

Car Sharing

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what consultations she and her predecessors have held on the use of High-Occupancy Vehicle Lanes since 2004. [160523]

Mr. Tom Harris: No formal consultations have taken place. However, in the normal course of the Agency's day-to-day work, informal discussions on the feasibility of High Occupancy Vehicle lanes as a concept have been ongoing with interested parties such as motorists' organisations and freight and public transport operators.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on the 2004 Highways Agency feasibility study into High-Occupancy Vehicle Lanes. [160524]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency spent approximately £36,000 on the feasibility study into High-Occupancy Vehicle Lanes.

Crossrail Line: Finance

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who is responsible for additional funding if the cost of Crossrail proves to be higher than the £16 billion budget. [158499]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* The £16 billion budget for the project is a fully inclusive cost, allowing for both contingency and expected inflation. Both the underlying costings and the risks around those costings have been very carefully assessed and subjected to independent external review. The Government are confident that costs will be contained within budget.

However, if costs should rise above that level and countervailing savings, or other revenue sources cannot be identified, then, recognising the scale of the project, Government would be the ultimate funder.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she has had with Transport for London and the Mayor of London on the *(a)* funding and *(b)* construction of Crossrail. [159116]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Secretary of State has regular meetings with both Transport for London and the Mayor of London to discuss such matters concerning transport in London, including Crossrail, as may be relevant at the time.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how much and what proportion of funding for Crossrail will come from *(a)* public funding, *(b)* supplementary business rates, *(c)* additional business funding, *(d)* future farebox projections and *(e)* other sources; and if she will make a statement; [159196]

(2) how the financial risk for Crossrail will be managed; and if she will make a statement; [159197]

(3) what powers her Department has to monitor the building of Crossrail and to prevent any budget overruns. [159198]

Mr. Tom Harris: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the right hon. Member for Wokingham (Mr. Redwood) on 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1093W.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what contributions to the cost of Crossrail will be made by *(a)* the Corporation of London, *(b)* the Canary Wharf Group and *(c)* BAA. [160246]

Mr. Tom Harris: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the right hon. Member for Wokingham (Mr. Redwood) on 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1093W.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport by whom possible cost over-runs on Crossrail would be met. [159906]

Mr. Tom Harris: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I have given to the right hon. Member for Wokingham (Mr. Redwood) today (UIN 158499).

Crossrail Line: Cost Effectiveness

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) by what means she plans to ensure that the Crossrail project offers best value for money in its construction and implementation; [160537]

(2) what financial controls she will place on those carrying out work on Crossrail. [160538]

Mr. Tom Harris: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the right hon. Member for Wokingham (Mr. Redwood) on 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1093W.

Departments: Assets

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what departmental assets are planned to be sold in each financial year from 2007-08 to 2010-11; what the *(a)* description and *(b)* book value of each such asset is; and what the expected revenue from each such sale is. [160403]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The requested information, where not commercially sensitive, has been placed in the Library of the House.

Departments: Consultants

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many consultants have been employed by her Department in 2006-07; how much has been paid to each consultant; and what the subject matter of consultancy for the Department was in each case. [156063]

Jim Fitzpatrick: 417 different consultancies worked for the central Department and its agencies during financial year 2006-07 on commissions that have been recorded within the Department's accounting systems as consultancy.

Lists showing the costs and nature of the work undertaken by these consultancies in 2006-07 have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

This updates the information provided to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 24 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1455W, the hon. Member for Epsom & Ewell (Chris Grayling) on 19 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 1620W, and the right hon. Member for Oldham West & Royton (Mr. Meacher) on 12 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1580W.

Departments: Crossrail Line

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the responsibilities of *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Mayor of London will be on oversight of Crossrail. [161784]

Mr. Tom Harris: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given to the right hon. Member for Wokingham (Mr. Redwood) on 17 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1093W.

Departments: Data Protection

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions she and representatives of her Department have had with the Home Department and others on sharing data and identity management; and what the conclusions were of these discussions. [159128]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Secretary of State and representatives of her Department are involved in various discussions with the Home Office on matters including data and identity management issues where we have a common interest. Most of these discussions are around road safety and the related matter of road and traffic law enforcement, where the provision of relevant information by the Department to the police is a key mechanism for police effectiveness.

We also contribute to discussions with the Home Office and its agencies on identity management to protect against identity fraud. These discussions are led by the Home Office, who are responsible for monitoring and reporting on progress.

The Department has been involved in a number of wider collective and bilateral Ministerial and official meetings with Home Office and other Departments, including the former Ministerial Committee on Data Sharing (MISC31) and the Identity Management Strategy Group chaired by the Home Office.

Sharing data to deliver Government objectives needs to be balanced with protecting privacy and maintaining public confidence that their personal data are adequately protected against misuse. Government take issues surrounding privacy very seriously. This is aligned with the publicly stated HM Government, Information Sharing Vision Statement, September 2006.

Departments: Design

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport who the Ministerial Design Champion is; and what his or her role entails. [160531]

Mr. Tom Harris: I am the Department's Ministerial Design Champion. The role is one dedicated to achieving good urban design and I am supported by the chief executive of the Highways Agency who has responsibility for the design of road structures. Specific work related to the aesthetics of bridge design is undertaken and heritage issues are considered where appropriate.

In support of this role the Department liaises with the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE).

Departments: Disabled People

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which buildings occupied by her Department *(a)* are and *(b)* are not fully accessible to disabled people; and if she will make a statement. [161170]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport is a federated organisation comprising DfT (Central), the headquarters functions responsible mainly for policy issues, and seven executive agencies responsible for the delivery of various services.

The following DfT(Central) buildings are fully accessible to disabled people:

Great Minster House (London),

Southside (London),

Ashdown House (London),

Ashdown House (Hastings),

Temple Quay House (Bristol),

Air Accidents Investigation Branch (Farnborough),

Rail Accident Investigation Branch (Derby and Woking)

The Marine Accident Investigation Branch's leased office accommodation, in Southampton (Carlton House) is not fully accessible to some categories of disabled people. The first floor is inaccessible to wheelchair users but some adjustments have been made to the ground floor.

No central data is held of the number of buildings occupied by our executive agencies which are or are not considered to be fully accessible to disabled people and this information could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Where there are access difficulties for disabled people, the Department makes appropriate reasonable adjustments to its arrangements for the recruitment and employment of staff, and the services and functions it delivers to its users, in accordance with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (as amended).

Departments: Internet

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much has been spent by her Department on *(a)* website creation and *(b)* website management in the last 10 years; which of her Department's websites are due to close; how many will be closed in each year until 2011; how her Department plans to ensure that the public are made aware of these website closures; and whether all the information held on the websites due to close will be moved to Directgov. [159127]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No central list of website creation and running costs is available for the last 10 years and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Estimated running costs for departmental sites, where available, were previously provided to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 15 May 2007, *Official Report*, columns 648-49W.

The Department is currently undertaking a programme of website rationalisation under the Transformational Government Agenda.

Information will be categorised into two main audience groups, citizens and business. Rationalising the number of websites across Government will help to make it easier for people to find the information they are looking for. Information for citizens will converge to Directgov (direct.gov.uk), information for businesses to Businesslink (businesslink.gov.uk) and corporate information to the DFT corporate site (dft.gov.uk). A list of sites identified for closure across central Government Departments was published in January this year in the Transformational Government Annual Report 2006 as part of the departmental website review:

http://www.cio.gov.uk/transformational_government/annual_report 2006/.

Updated figures were subsequently reported in the National Audit Office Government on the Internet Report published in July 2007.

http://www.governmentontheweb.org/access_reports.asp

There are currently 74 websites across the Department for Transport, its Executive agencies, non-departmental public bodies and associated organisations which have been identified for closure. Information on these sites will converge to one or other of Directgov, Businesslink or the DFT corporate site.

Discussions are ongoing between the Department, Directgov and Businesslink to finalise convergence plans for departmental sites and identify which will close in each year to 2011. The public will be made aware of site closure in a number of ways. Web addresses will be retained for an agreed period to point users to the new location for the information on either Directgov, Businesslink or the DFT corporate site. It may be appropriate for some content from a closed site to converge to more than one site depending on the intended audience. In such cases web address redirections and appropriate signposts will be put in place.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the name is of each special adviser in her Department. [153215]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Cabinet Office annual list of special adviser names will be published shortly.

Special advisers to the Secretary of State for Transport are David Learn and Julie Crowley.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any of her Department's special advisers have declared a conflict of interest. [160775]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the "Model Contract for Special Advisers". Copies of the "Model Contract" are available in the Libraries of the House.

Departments: Official Hospitality

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent by her Department on official hospitality in the last 12 months. [158904]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport spent £715,913.70 on hospitality from October 2006 to September 2007. This spend includes costs for refreshments provided at meetings and working lunches.

The Highways Agency was not able to provide the information requested without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departments: Older Workers

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many employees in *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by her Department applied to continue to work beyond state retirement age in the latest year or part thereof for which figures are available; and how many of those applications were successful. [161288]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested for the last calendar year is in the following table.

	Number of staff employed 65 or over	*Total number of applications received to continue working over the age of 65*	*Total number of successful applications to continue working over the age of 65*
DFT(Central)	0	0	0
DSA	[1]8	8	8
VOSA	0	0	0
HA	5	3	2
VGA	1	1	1
MCA	2	2	2
DVLA	7	[2]—	7
GCDA	12	12	12

[1] The DVLA Agency do not keep records of the number of employees who apply to continue to work beyond state retirement age, as these are individual requests made through the line management structure and can be based on business needs.

[2] The DSA figure excludes "fee paid" driving examiners used on an ad-hoc basis.

The information requested is not available for non-departmental public bodies.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in which financial years since 2001 her Department's outturn for its capital budget at the end of the year was less than planned at the beginning of the year; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* reason for the underspend was in each case. [160341]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The National Audit Office measures spending performance against plans by comparing outturns against final provision following supplementary estimates—rather than against plans at the start of the year—as plans can change during the year for a number of reasons, such as machinery of Government and classification changes. The definitive figures for final provision and provisional outturn are published each year in the Public Expenditure Outturns White Paper. Changes to plans arising in-year are published in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses, as are differences between provisional and final outturns.

The Department for Transport was created in 2002 and since then, for all years, differences between outturns and plans were due to net underspends across a range of programmes. In 2003-04 provisional outturn was £303 million less than final provision, largely due to the Highways Agency improved methods of making provision for future land and property liabilities, and in 2006-07 £183 million less, mainly due to lower than projected capital expenditure by London and Continental Railways.

Departments: Written Questions

Mrs. Dunwoody: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what her criteria are for replying to questions for written answer tabled by hon. Members by making reference to internet websites within the powers of her Department; and if she will make a statement. [158851]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Current guidance to departmental staff is that where the information requested in parliamentary questions is easily available, such as in the House Libraries or on websites, hon. Members are advised accordingly.

The Department is presently reviewing this guidance and revised instructions will be issued to staff following the completion of this review.

Driving Offences: Fines

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many penalty charge notices have been issued by each council in the last five years. [159121]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not available in the form requested.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much revenue has been collected through penalty charge notices by each council in the last five years. [159122]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The data from Communities and Local Government Revenue Outturn returns from local authorities in 2005-06 has been placed in the Libraries of the House. This was the first year in which specific information about income from penalty charges was collected from local authorities.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many recorded challenges against penalty charge notices there were in each of the last five years; and how many of these were successful. [159124]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This information is not available in the form requested.

Driving Tests: Interpreters

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many practical driving tests were conducted with an interpreter in the car in each of the last three years. [160462]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The number of practical car tests conducted with an interpreter accompanying the candidate in each of the last three financial years is as follows:

	Category B	*Category B1*	*Category B+E*	*Total*
2004-05	20,492	4	36	20,532
2005-06	14,481	1	4	14,486
2006-07	15,199	5	4	15,208

Notes:
1. Category B = Cars
2. Category B1 = Motor tricycles and quadricycles, three or four wheeled vehicles with an unladen weight not exceeding 550kg.
3. Category B+E = Combinations of a Category b vehicle and a trailer over 750kg.

The Department intends to consult on the use of foreign language translation in driving theory and practical tests later this year.

Driving Tests: Languages

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many driving theory tests were conducted in a language other than English or Welsh in each of the last three years. [160463]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Figures are not available for before April 2005. In the last two financial years, the number of driving theory tests conducted in a language other than English or Welsh was:

	Car	*Motorcycle*	*Total*
2005 - 06	83,438	269	83,707
2006 - 07	92,397	391	92,788

The Department intends to consult on the use of foreign language translation in driving theory and practical tests later this year.

Heathrow Airport: Noise

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether analysis of the costs and benefits of Heathrow expansion was taken into account in the findings of the latest Attitudes to Noise from Aircraft Sources study; and if she will make a statement. [160384]

Jim Fitzpatrick: No. The Attitudes to Noise from Aviation Sources in England study focuses on noise issues. It is not related to specific airport developments and does not compare noise with other impacts of aviation.

The findings will be based on the responses to social surveys undertaken at sites around a number of airports across England.

It has therefore never been the intention that the study should take account of wider issues specifically related to Heathrow, or any other airport.

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the findings of the latest Attitudes to Noise from Aircraft Sources study will be used in relation to the forthcoming consultation on Heathrow expansion; and if she will make a statement. [160386]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We intend to release the Attitudes to Noise from Aviation Sources in England (ANASE) Report, together with the comments of peer reviewers shortly.

Lighthouses: Finance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the General Lighthouse Fund *(a)* received from and *(b)* paid to the Commissioners of Irish Lights in each of the last 10 years. [160525]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is set out in the table.

£000

	2006-07	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*	*2001-02*	*2000-01*	*1999-2000*	*1998-99*	*1997-98*
(a) Amounts received by the General Lighthouse Fund (GLF) from The Commissioners of Irish Lights (CIL)										
1. Light dues collected in Ireland and remitted to the GLF										
Collected in the Republic of Ireland	3,127	3,248	3,037	3,465	3,358	3,080	3,424	3,440	3,043	2,561
Collected in Northern Ireland	539	594	586	586	610	660	600	620	505	606
	3,666	3,842	3,623	4,051	3,968	3,740	4,024	4,060	3,548	3,167
2. Irish Government Supplement paid to CIL and remitted to the GLF	3,937	3,728	3,893	2,851	2,202	1,991	1,590	1,164	1,593	1,639
3. Commercial Income generated by CIL	496	758	555	560	241	193	173	180	167	149
Total	8,099	8,329	8,071	7,462	6,411	5,924	5,787	5,404	5,308	4,954

	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05	2003-04	2002-03	2001-02	2000-01	1999-2000	1998-99	£000 1997-98
(b) Payments from General Lighthouse Fund to CIL										
Advances from GLF to cover CIL costs[1]	20,150	19,677	19,681	18,002	15,919	15,269	12,539	13,340	11,398	13,218

[1] Excludes costs for Dun Laoghaire Building Project in years 2006-07 and 2005-06 as these costs were met from the proceeds of the sale of the CIL Headquarters Building in central Dublin in July 2007.

M3: Noise

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate has been made of the number of households between junctions 5 and 7 of the M3 adversely affected by noise from the motorway, broken down by decibel level; when plans for implementing noise reduction measures on this stretch of the motorway will be implemented; whether these plans have changed over the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [161738]

Mr. Tom Harris: The following table shows the Highways Agency's assessment of the actual number of households between junctions 5 and 7 of the M3 adversely affected by noise from the motorway, broken down by decibel level.

	Noise level dB								
Side	*68-69*	*69-70*	*70-71*	*71-72*	*72-73*	*73-74*	*74-75*	*75-76*	*76+*
Section J5-J6									
West/northbound	11	10	10	6	4	5	2	1	0
East/southbound	7	5	7	3	1	0	0	1	0
Both	18	15	17	9	5	5	2	2	0
Section J6-J7									
West/northbound	59	70	39	55	37	26	17	32	27
East/southbound	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	4	1
Both	59	70	39	55	38	26	19	36	28

Three locations, Hatch Warren, Black Dam and Hatch, have been provided with noise barriers. There are two further locations, Mapledurwell and Up Nately, which are being investigated for the possible provision of noise barriers. These lower priority sites will be considered for the programme to commence after 2009-10 subject to the availability of funds.

Plans for implementing noise reduction measures on this stretch of the motorway have not changed over the past five years.

Ministerial Duties

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which Minister has responsibility for *(a)* the Government Car and Dispatch Agency, *(b)* Passenger Focus, *(c)* legislative priorities, *(d)* relations with devolved administrations, *(e)* freedom of information, *(f)* deregulation and *(g)* finance in her Department; and for what reasons these roles were not set out in the Cabinet Office List of Ministerial Responsibilities, October 2007. [160499]

Jim Fitzpatrick: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Transport oversees all policy areas within the Department for Transport, as was specified in the Cabinet Office List of Ministerial Responsibilities. This includes legislative priorities and finance. My colleague, the hon. Member for Glasgow, South (Mr. Harris) leads on rail, including passenger focus. My own responsibilities include the Safety Service Delivery and Logistics Group Agencies, the Government Car and Dispatch Agency being one of these, and better regulation. All Ministers take responsibility for relations with the devolved Administrations and freedom of information as they apply to their areas.

Motor Vehicles: Crime

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent meetings she has attended at which vehicle crime was discussed. [160436]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Ministers and officials have regular meetings with interested groups at which vehicle crime is discussed.

Motor Vehicles: Testing

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions she has had on *(a)* improving the MOT fee-setting process and *(b)* the possible deregulation of fees for MOTs. [160501]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department is intending to consult on MOT testing policy including on whether or not there should be any changes in how test fees are set. There have been the usual discussions within Government and informally with stakeholders as part of this process.

Motor Vehicles: Travel

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many motorists in the *(a)* London, *(b)* Surrey county council, *(c)* Hampshire county council and *(d)* Isle of Wight council area used their vehicles

for (i) less than five miles, (ii) between five and 25 miles and (iii) more than 25 miles in each of the last five years. [160764]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The table shows the percentage of car driver trips by residents of London, Surrey and Hampshire which are (a) less than five miles, (b) five to less than 25 miles and (c) 25 miles and over for 2002-06[1], based on data from the National Travel Survey. It is not possible to produce reliable estimates for the Isle of Wight using data from this survey.

[1] Data for several years have been combined in some cases to increase the sample size.

Car driver trips per person per year by trip length, 2002-06

Percentage

	Under five miles	*Five to under 25 miles*	*25 miles and over*	*All lengths*
London				
2002	59	35	6	100
2003	60	34	6	100
2004	62	33	5	100
2005	62	32	6	100
2006	62	32	6	100
Surrey				
2002-03	53	40	7	100
2003-04	56	38	7	100
2004-05	57	37	6	100
2005-06	55	38	7	100
Hampshire				
2002-03	52	41	7	100
2003-04	52	41	7	100
2004-05	51	40	8	100
2005-06	52	40	8	100

It is not possible to estimate the number of motorists making trips of different lengths using the data available.

Motorways: Noise

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding was made available for motorway noise reduction schemes in each year since 1997; and what funding will be made available for each of the next three years. [161740]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency has a policy of using quieter surfaces as a matter of course whenever a road needs to be resurfaced. Budgets for noise reduction measures on these schemes are not generally separately identifiable.

Since 1999-2000 the agency's budget has included an annual £5 million ring-fenced allocation to provide noise mitigation measures in the most serious and pressing cases, where practical and cost-effective measures can be provided.

The aforementioned measures apply to the entire strategic road network, not just the motorways element.

The Highways Agency is currently considering the composition of its investment programmes for each of the next three years following the outcome of the comprehensive spending review.

Public Transport: Tickets

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to encourage the use of smartcards as means of paying for public transport in the UK. [160111]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Department sponsored development of the ITSO specifications for interoperable smart card ticketing. This will enable consumers to benefit from a more consistent interface to public transport and the ability to use one card across many different transport operators and schemes in the UK.

Support has been provided for early implementation by local authorities. The NoWcard scheme in the north west has been rolling out over the past year. Existing schemes in Cheshire, Nottinghamshire and Southampton are in the process of introducing ITSO based smartcards.

All new rail franchises now include a requirement to introduce tickets on smartcards to the ITSO specification. The Government believe that the introduction of ITSO smartcards on the railway will make it easier for passengers to buy their tickets at a time and place to suit them and to offer more flexible ticketing. It also opens up the opportunities to better integrate ticketing between transport modes.

From April 2008, the national concessionary bus travel pass for older and disabled people in England will be in a smartcard format and be ITSO compliant.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps she is taking to ensure interoperability between the Integrated Transport Smartcard Organisation and Oyster smart cards on the public transport network. [160278]

Ms Rosie Winterton: In May 2006 the Secretary of State and Mayor of London announced that they intended to enable the Oyster network in London to accept ITSO smart cards, as well as to enable mainline railway stations in London to accept Oyster Pay As You Go.

A project is under way to deliver interoperability between Oyster and ITSO in London and to meet rail franchise commitments. When it is completed the entire Transport for London transport network should be able to accept ITSO based smartcards.

Railways: Fares

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the reasons are for recent increases in rail fares; and if she will make a statement. [159193]

Mr. Tom Harris: Government regulate rail fares that cover most commuter tickets and saver tickets (long distance, off-peak fares).

More than half of rail journeys are made on a regulated ticket, and around 80 per cent. of passengers buy either a regulated or discounted ticket. Regulated fares are now on average 1.6 per cent. cheaper in real terms than they were in 1995.

Regulated fares will remain capped at RPI + 1 per cent. as the Government made clear in July's Rail White Paper.

Unregulated fares are a matter for the train operators, but increases are kept under review by Government.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions her officials have had with train operating companies on the effect on fares of increases in franchise premia payments. [160279]

Mr. Tom Harris: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Railways: Fires

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fires there were on trains in each of the last five years for which data is available; how many of these fires *(a)* were judged to be a risk to human life when they broke out, *(b)* resulted in loss of life and *(c)* were connected with train crashes; and how many lives were lost on each occasion. [161735]

Mr. Tom Harris: The information requested is as follows:

Train fires 2002-06

	Number of train fires
2002	301
2003	271
2004	298
2005	148
2006	164

The data is for all railways and tramways in Great Britain, and is based on incidents reported to the Office of Rail Regulation's HM Railway Inspectorate, under the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995 (RIDDOR 95).

For the period covered, there was one reportable fatality. A guard was overcome by smoke attempting to extinguish a fire on board a train, which had been started by arsonists. The incident occurred at Purley on the 5 July 2002.

HM Railway Inspectorate classify train accidents as:

Collisions between rolling stock.

Derailments of rolling stock.

Trains running into obstructions.

Fires on board trains.

Missile damage to drivers cab windows.

In instances where a train is involved in a collision and a subsequent fire results, the accident is categorized as a collision rather than a fire (e.g. the Ladbroke Grove railway accident 5 October 1999). Therefore information is not available to answer part c of the question.

Railways: Franchises

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the criteria are for awarding the East Coast Main Line rail franchise; and how the Grand Central franchise affects the East Coast Main Line franchise. [161477]

Mr. Tom Harris: The franchise was awarded to the bid which offered the overall best value for money based upon the deliverability of the bid.

The Grand Central Franchise does not have any impact on the level of service to be provided by the InterCity East Coast franchise. Bidders were instructed to take full account of Grand Central rights in constructing their bid.

Railways: Greater London

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether she or officials from her Department have had meetings with Transport for London in the last six months to discuss new funding arrangements following the Metronet administration and the approval of Crossrail. [161526]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Ministers and officials from the Department have met with Transport for London over the past six months to discuss Transport for London funding as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007. This has included discussions on Crossrail and on Metronet's administration.

Railways: Inspections

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what regular safety inspections and certification procedures are carried out on trains; and whose responsibility it is to ensure that these are carried out so that all rolling stock meets safety standards. [161736]

Mr. Tom Harris: It is the responsibility of every train operator to ensure that their rolling stock meets appropriate safety standards.

Under the Railways and Other Guided Transport Systems (Safety) Regulations 2006 railway companies must have their safety management systems certified by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR). Their safety management systems should include procedures for carrying out risk assessments and selecting and implementing control measures including, where appropriate, inspection and certification.

ORR's Railway Inspectorate carries out inspections to ensure that railway companies reduce risks so far as is reasonably practicable.

Railways: Nuneaton

David Tredinnick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations she has received on train journey times from Nuneaton to London outside the rush hour; and if she will make a statement. [161797]

Mr. Tom Harris: A number of representations have been received from passengers, a rail user group, local authorities and MPs whose constituents use Nuneaton station. Concern has been expressed over changes to train services from December 2008. This will mean that, in the off peak, the link with London and other key destinations will be provided by a semi fast service. Reassurances have been given that the station will still

have links with all the present destinations reached from Nuneaton and indeed will have an increased range of journey opportunities.

Railways: Safety Measures

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether new guidance to train operating companies published by the Rail Safety Standards Board on break-glass hammers or safety windows will apply to existing rolling stock. [161737]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Rail Safety and Standards Board is initiating the process to amend the existing industry Railway Group Standard (RGS) relating to the use of break-glass hammers or train safety windows, following the publication of its research report into passenger containment in rail accidents. The RGS amendment process provides a public consultation mechanism.

RGSs do not normally mandate changes retrospectively. It is for railway health and safety duty holders to choose whether or not they decide voluntarily to do so.

Repairs and Maintenance: Finance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how £144 million will be saved by her Department through standardising and tightening major maintenance contracts, as described in the pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review. [159202]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The major maintenance contracts referred to in Annexe D3.5 of the pre-Budget report and comprehensive spending review are the Highways Agency's contracts for routine maintenance, winter maintenance and asset renewal for the motorways and trunk roads in England. Maintenance accounts for a substantial portion of the Highways Agency annual spend, hence the magnitude of the anticipated efficiency savings.

Since 2000, the Highways Agency has made radical changes to its maintenance contracts, increasing their size, combining functions into a single service provider contract, and adopting a performance based specification. This process has encouraged greater efficiency from suppliers. These measures have already achieved efficiency savings of some £80 million per annum.

The past process of contract evolution has led to different versions of the contract for each maintenance area. Also, service levels have generally been increased in recent years providing, for example, better support for dealing with incidents on the network and reducing the disruptive impact of road works. There is an opportunity now to achieve further savings by applying a standardised contract across the network and by optimising the value for money from these service levels.

Roads: Construction

Mr. Maples: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many lane kilometres of *(a)* motorways and *(b)* non-motorway trunk roads were built in each of the last 30 years. [160005]

Mr. Tom Harris: The Highways Agency does not hold records of the breakdown of motorway and non-motorway trunk road lane km added to the network since 1977, but does hold some information for the years since 1997.

The Highways Agency does not currently have the data since 1997 verified on a scheme by scheme basis or broken down between motorways and non-motorway trunk roads. The Highways Agency is working on this currently and the breakdown of information is expected to be completed following Christmas recess.

I will write to the hon. Member with the information when it is available and place a copy of my letter, and the tables, in the Libraries of the House.

Roads: Finance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much her Department *(a)* budgeted for and *(b)* spent on road maintenance in each of the last five years. [160512]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Over the last five years, the Highways Agency has budgeted, and spent, the following amounts on road maintenance.

		£ million
	Budget	*Spend*
2002-03	740	760
2003-04	748	726
2004-05	730	732
2005-06	865	852
2006-07	862	850

The Department provides capital funding to local highway authorities in England (except London), to support the highways maintenance aspects of their local transport plans. The sums allocated for the period 2002-03 to 2006-07 are as follows:

	£ million
2002-03	545
2003-04	546
2004-05	634
2005-06	634
2006-07	674

The Department also supports English local authorities (in this case, including London boroughs) that have entered into private finance initiative (PFI) contracts for highways maintenance, including street lighting maintenance schemes, by providing credits to cover the cost of increased capital funding. The total sums disbursed by the Department were as follows:

	Budget/spend (£ million)
2002-03	0.3
2003-04	1.8
2004-05	7.7
2005-06	12.6
2006-07	22.6

As these sums are only provided against agreed contracts, the budget and spend figures are the same.

In addition, we have funded a number of major maintenance projects, each of which costs over £5 million. In total, these projects were allocated the following budgets at the start of each year, together with the actual in-year spend of:

	Budget	£ million Spend
2002-03	12.3	12.3
2003-04	9.6	9.6
2004-05	6.1	6.4
2005-06	6.6	13.4
2006-07	9.1	13.3

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for what reason each road project categorised on the Highway Agency's website as on hold is so categorised. [160522]

Mr. Tom Harris: The 21 projects listed as "on hold" on the Highways Agency (HA) website comprise eight major schemes (two of which were in the Government's national roads programme and six which were being prepared for programme entry) and 13 Route Management Strategies.

None of the eight schemes were prioritised for funding by the relevant regional bodies in their advice to Government and they were put on hold by the HA following the Regional Funding Allocations announcement in July 2006. Regional Funding Allocations will be reviewed in due course and regional bodies will have an opportunity to revisit their advice on priorities.

The Route Management Strategies set out a long-term assessment of route capability and priorities for service improvements. The Highways Agency is now developing its forward planning on a regional basis through the recent publication of the Regional Network Reports available on the Highways Agency website.

Roads: Tolls

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when she expects a national road pricing scheme to be implemented. [160113]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Tackling urban congestion is our priority, and congestion charging has a role in this, backed by investment in public transport. While it is possible that road pricing could have the potential to be extended to include parts of our national networks, that is a decision for the future, informed by the development of local schemes, including London, and clear answers to the technological and system challenges.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps are being taken by her Department in relation to *(a)* research into, *(b)* development of and *(c)* preparation for a national road pricing scheme. [160516]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Sir Rod Eddington has said that, without action, there will be a 30 per cent. increase in congestion on our roads by 2025, increasing costs to business by over £10 billion a year, so it is important that we explore road pricing seriously. Congestion charging, backed by investment in public transport, has a role in tackling urban congestion. While it is possible that road pricing could have the potential to be extended to include parts of our national networks, that is a decision for the future, informed by the development of local schemes, including London. We need to find clear answers to the technological and system challenges. The Department is working with industry to explore the role that more advanced technologies and systems could play in supporting schemes. Any road pricing system would need to be robust and trusted by road users. It is important that we demonstrate, for example, how we would deliver safeguards on privacy and against fraud before taking any decisions in the future. The Demonstrations Project was announced by the then Secretary of State on 10 May 2006.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff have been employed by her Department to work on research, development and preparation for a national road pricing scheme over the last five years. [160517]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Over the last five years, dedicated effort on road pricing in the UK began with a team of five in the Department for Transport working on the Road Pricing Feasibility Study, in summer 2003. Since then, the number of Departmental staff wholly engaged on all aspects of road pricing policy, including work with local authorities on proposals for local schemes, has increased to 22 in 2007-08.

Rolling Stock: Expenditure

Graham Stringer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much was spent on rolling stock for *(a)* inter-city services, *(b)* commuter services in London and the south east and *(c)* local regional rail services in each of the last 10 years. [159814]

Mr. Tom Harris *[holding answer 22 October 2007]:* The information is not held in the form requested. However, approximate figures for the capital investment in rolling stock vehicle procurement at a national level in the last 10 years are as follows:

	Inter City	Commuter	£ million Other
1996	—	11	—
1997	—	316	33
1998	448	123	373
1999	663	10	37
2000	—	119	9
2001	—	686	20
2002	161	953	8
2003	200	60	103
2004	—	125	—
2005	—	242	—
2006	—	220	—
2007	—	254	—

Contracts for new rolling stock are between the rolling stock operating companies and the train operating companies, rather than the Department, who are not a party to these contracts.

South West Trains: Overcrowding

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment she has made of the likely effect on passenger in excess capacity figures of the increase in capacity on South West Trains following the start of the new franchise in February 2007, with particular reference to trains travelling between Basingstoke and London. [161728]

Mr. Tom Harris: The capacity increases that the operator is required to achieve during the life of the South West Trains franchise are specified in terms of the additional seats to be provided rather than passengers in excess of capacity. The franchise requirement is for 21 per cent. more mainline peak seats by the end of the franchise and 20 per cent. increased capacity on peak time suburban trains.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Diplomatic Relations

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what diplomatic approaches have been made towards the Taliban in Afghanistan. [161774]

Dr. Howells: The UK supports President Karzai's efforts to bring disaffected Afghans into society's mainstream, providing they renounce violence and accept Afghanistan's constitution. In this context the UK has provided funds for the reconciliation programme, Programme Takhim-e-Solh.

Africa: EC External Relations

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his European Union counterparts on the forthcoming EU-Africa summit and the possible attendance of Zimbabwe's President Mugabe; what the outcome was of these discussions; and if he will make a statement. [155061]

David Miliband *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* We are committed to the EU-Africa relationship and want the summit to go ahead and to deliver real results for Europe and Africa on critical issues such as peacekeeping and security, climate change, better governance and the millennium development goals. In our contacts with all EU member states we continue to make clear that President Mugabe's presence would undermine any attempt to address these key issues. I have had discussions in particular with the Foreign Ministers of France, Sweden, Germany, Portugal, Spain, Italy, Ireland and Romania on this issue and raised it at successive meetings of EU Foreign Ministers. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch-Brown, has had other meetings with EU states at which this issue has been discussed. We will continue to urge our EU and African partners to find an alternative solution on attendance. My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has already made his position clear. Neither he nor any senior Government Minister will attend the summit if President Mugabe is present.

Burma: Forced Labour

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether it is open to the UK to refer Burma to *(a)* the International Court of Justice and *(b)* any other international body for persistent use of forced labour; and if he will make a statement. [161654]

Meg Munn: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Burma: Human Rights

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he is taking to help to improve the human rights of the people of Burma. [161511]

Ms Abbott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps his Department is taking in response to the imprisonment of human rights activists in Burma; and if he will make a statement. [161512]

Meg Munn: I refer my hon. Friends to the replies I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Coventry South (Mr. Cunningham) on 29 October 2007, *Official Report,* columns 818-9W.

Burma: Overseas Trade

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what UK business interests his Department has ascertained are held in Burma. [161656]

Meg Munn: We do follow reports of companies activities produced by the UN, non-governmental organisations and other organisations. We monitor the level of UK corporate activities through statistics from the Office of National Statistics and Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs, which show that trade and investment in Burma has fallen in recent years.

Contrary to some reports, the UK is not the second largest investor in Burma. UK investment in Burma is negligible. The Office for National Statistics figures for current active UK investment are very low; indeed they have no returns suggesting any UK direct investment in Burma as of the end of 2005.

In terms of total imports of goods from Burma, the UK currently ranks second in the EU after Germany. However, the value of imports from Burma to the UK

halved between 2004 and 2005. In the eight months to August 2007, UK imports of goods from Burma were £19 million and exports totalled £2 million.

Chad: Politics and Government

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the *(a)* security and *(b)* human rights situation in Eastern Chad since the state of emergency declared on 16 October. [160611]

Mr. Jim Murphy: We are aware of reports of violence in Goz Beida, eastern Chad on 18 October, following the Government of Chad's declaration of a state of emergency on 16 October. We are seriously concerned about the continuing conflict between the Chadian army and rebel groups in eastern Chad and the reports we have seen of inter-ethnic violence. These clashes risk worsening the humanitarian crisis and further destabilising the region.

In response to the continuing security and humanitarian crisis in Chad, in September the UK co-sponsored United Nations Security Council Resolution 1778, which authorises the deployment of a European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) force and a UN multi-dimensional mission to Chad. The force's 12 month mandate is to contribute to protecting refugees and displaced persons in eastern Chad, facilitate the delivery of humanitarian aid and contribute to protecting the UN operation. The UN operation is intended to build the capacity of the Chadian police to protect refugees and internally displaced persons and help create a more secure environment in eastern Chad. The overall aim of the joint operation is to create the conditions necessary for voluntary, secure and sustainable return of refugees and internally displaced persons. The ESDP mission is a bridging force until the UN itself is able to deploy a peace- keeping mission and is planned to deploy by the end of the year.

China: Press Freedom

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 19 February 2007, *Official Report,* column 13W, on China: press freedom, what steps he has taken to encourage the Chinese authorities to ensure freedom of movement and expression in China for both domestic and international press *(a)* in the run-up to the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008 and *(b)* afterwards. [160615]

Meg Munn: We continue to encourage China to ensure that new regulations for foreign correspondents remain in force after the Olympic Games, and lift restrictions on domestic journalists. The then Prime Minister, the right hon. Tony Blair, and the then Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, my right hon. Friend the Member for Dulwich and West Norwood (Tessa Jowell), raised media freedom with the Head of China's Information Office for the State Council when he visited London in April. The then Foreign Secretary, my right hon. Friend the Member for Derby, South (Margaret Beckett), stressed the importance of freedom of expression during a visit to Beijing on 17 May. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, the right hon. Lord Malloch Brown, raised the issue with his counterpart in Beijing in August. We also raise freedom of expression through the EU, and did so at the EU-China Human Rights Dialogues in May and October.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his Ministers have had with Chinese officials at which media freedom was discussed in the last three years. [160732]

Meg Munn: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departments: Civil Proceedings

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many civil law suits have been brought against his Department based either wholly or partially on grounds provided by the Human Rights Act 1998; how many were settled out of court, before a court judgment was delivered; and how much such settlements cost the public purse since 1998. [160700]

Meg Munn: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departments: Disabled

Danny Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which buildings occupied by his Department *(a)* are and *(b)* are not fully accessible to disabled people; and if he will make a statement. [161169]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has taken steps to ensure that its buildings are as fully accessible to disabled people as is reasonably practicable. Where there are access difficulties for disabled people, the FCO makes appropriate reasonable adjustments in accordance with the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any of his Department's special advisers have declared a conflict of interest. [160782]

Meg Munn: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departments: Older Workers

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by his Department applied to continue to work beyond state retirement age in the latest year or part thereof for which figures are available; and how many of those applications were successful. [161287]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and its Executive Agencies abolished mandatory retirement ages for all UK-based staff below the senior management structure (SMS) in July 2006. Since then staff in the delegated grades have been free to choose when to leave the Department. We do not require them to apply to continue working beyond any fixed age.

The civil service maintains a centrally-set default retirement age of 65 for staff in the senior civil service (SCS)/SMS. Neither the FCO, nor its Executive agencies, received any applications in the past year from SMS/SCS staff wishing to work beyond the age of 65.

Appointments to non-departmental public bodies supported by the FCO are made independently of the FCO. We do not hold staff records for them.

The FCO is committed to promoting age equality in the workplace.

Departments: Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many and what percentage of Questions tabled to his Department for answer on a named day received a substantive reply on the day named in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [161347]

Meg Munn: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office was tabled 638 named day parliamentary questions from 20 November 2006 to 25 October 2007. Of those, 523 parliamentary questions (82 per cent.) received a substantive reply on the day named.

EC Reform: Treaties

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which articles in the treaty establishing a constitution for Europe have been *(a)* retained (i) in full and (ii) in amended form and *(b)* omitted from the draft EU reform treaty; and which articles in the draft EU reform treaty were not in the Treaty establishing a constitution for Europe. [155472]

David Miliband *[holding answer 17 September 2007]:* The draft treaty establishing a constitution for Europe is now defunct. The inter-governmental conference mandate records the agreement of all 27 heads that:

"The constitutional concept....is abandoned".

The constitutional treaty was legally unprecedented. It would have abolished the EU and refounded it under a single, constitutional order. The reform treaty by contrast, amends the existing treaties—just like the Single European Act, Maastricht, Nice and Amsterdam.

The Government have secured extra safeguards on each of the four red lines set out ahead of the June European Council. I wrote to the chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee on 11 and 18 October setting out how the Government's four red lines have been met in the latest draft of the reform treaty. These letters have been placed in the Library of the House.

EU Reform: Treaties

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs on which occasions *(a)* focal points met to discuss the inter-governmental conference (IGC) mandates and *(b)* ministers met their counterparts to discuss the IGC; whether those meetings were bilateral or multilateral; what representations of positions and discussions occurred at those meetings; and if he will make a statement. [154587]

Mr. Jim Murphy: As I set out in evidence during my appearances before the Foreign Affairs Committee on 12 September and the European Scrutiny Committee on 4 July and 2 October, the draft mandate for the Reform Treaty Inter-governmental Conference (IGC) was circulated for the first time at the meeting of all focal points on 19 June. Ministerial discussion of the draft IGC mandate took place at the European Council on 21-22 June. The Government set out their general approach to agreeing a new Treaty in the written ministerial statement issued by the then Minister for Europe, my right hon. Friend the Member for Ashfield (Mr. Hoon), on 5 December 2006, *Official Report*, columns 10-11WS, and the then Prime Minister, the right hon. Tony Blair, explained the Government's priorities before the Parliamentary Liaison Committee on 18 June. Ministers hold regular discussions with EU partners on many issues, including EU Institutional issues.

European General Affairs and External Relations Council

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many votes took place at the European General Affairs and External Relations Council in each of the last 12 months; how many times the British Government *(a)* applied a veto, *(b)* voted negatively and *(c)* abstained in such votes in each month; and if he will make a statement. [159484]

David Miliband: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

France: Civil Partnerships

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions the Government has had with the French government on transposing rights in UK civil partnerships into the French system of legal recognition of civil partnerships for UK civil partners living in France. [161800]

Mr. Jim Murphy: The Government have not had any discussions with the French Government on this issue.

HMS Sussex

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what point negotiations with the Spanish government have reached on the recovery of material from the wreck of HMS Sussex, sunk off Gibraltar. [161724]

Mr. Jim Murphy: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Hong Kong: Politics and Government

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consultation his Department has undertaken with the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in relation to the Chief Executive's Green Paper on Constitutional Development, published in July 2007; and if he will make a statement. [159468]

David Miliband: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the Green Paper on Constitutional Development produced by the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region in July; what Government policy is in regard to the proposals for China's future role in Hong Kong's constitutional affairs; and if he will make a statement. [159469]

David Miliband: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Iran: Terrorism

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the implications of the recent conclusion by the Financial Action Task Force on the Islamic Republic of Iran's lack of comprehensive anti-money laundering/combating the financing of terrorism regime represents a significant vulnerability within the international financial system; and what steps the UK will be advocating in this regard. [159560]

David Miliband: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Iraq: Resettlement

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the adequacy of cooperation between Government departments involved in offering assistance to Iraqi staff working and who have worked for the Government; and if he will make a statement. [159252]

David Miliband: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what written guidance has been provided on the implementation of the Government's policy of assistance to locally-employed Iraqi staff for British staff employed in the British embassies in *(a)* Iraq, *(b)* Egypt, *(c)* Iran, *(d)* Syria and *(e)* Lebanon; and if he will place copies in the Library. [159253]

David Miliband: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty: Scotland

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received any representation from the Scottish Executive on it being represented by Scottish Ministers on an observer basis at future Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty discussions. [161665]

Dr. Howells: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not received any such representations. Under the Scotland Act 1998, Foreign Affairs including International Relations, are a reserved matter. Defence is also a matter reserved by the Scotland Act. Scotland is an integral part of the United Kingdom and the United Kingdom is a State Party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Scotland is not eligible therefore for separate observer status.

Poland: Environment Protection

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 11 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 853-54W, on Poland: environment protection, whether the Government plan to make an intervention to the European Court of Justice in the case of the European Commission and Poland on the construction of the Augustow and Wasilkow road bypasses following the publications of details in the Commission's *Official Journal* on 25 August. [161689]

Mr. Jim Murphy: On July 31 2007 the construction work of Via Baltica in Rospuda Valley was stopped. The outgoing Polish Prime Minister Jaroslaw Kaczynski, Law and Justice Party, (Prawo i Sprawiedliwosc (PiS)) announced that work would continue on other sections of the planned route, without any damage to the whole investment.

The Polish Government still has to wait for the European Court of Justice's (ECJ) decision on the proposed route via Rospuda. It may take up to one and a half years as the ECJ has rejected Poland's request to deal with the issue in an urgent six-month mode.

It is difficult to predict what may happen during this time following recent elections and the change of Prime Minister. Press reports suggest the new Government of Civic Platform may change the plans chosen by the PiS to avoid Natura 2000 areas in the Rospuda Valley. The decision is to be postponed until after social and environmental consultations.

Details about the case were published in the *Official Journal* on 25 August. The UK's deadline for applying to intervene in order to submit a statement in intervention expired on 16 October. No Departments have expressed an interest in intervening in the case and therefore the Government do not currently plan to make an intervention in the case.

Serbia: International Whaling Commission

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10tOctober 2007, *Official Report*, column 677W, on Serbia: International Whaling Commission, what plans his Department has to seek to persuade *(a)* the Serbian government and *(b)* other European governments which are not yet members of the International Whaling Commission (IWC) to join the IWC and vote for whale conservation. [160657]

Meg Munn: Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs officials have identified a number of European countries, including Serbia, as possible candidates for the International Whaling Commission (IWC). Our embassies in these countries lobbied their host countries prior to the 2007 annual meeting of the IWC; Serbia most recently in March 2007. Embassies in the region will be lobbying further before the next annual meeting of the IWC.

Sri Lanka: Immigration

John Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Rule 39 applications were lodged with the European Court of Human Rights by Tamils facing removal from the UK to Sri Lanka in each month since October 2006. [161597]

Dr. Howells: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not hold statistics for the number of Rule 39 applications lodged with the European Court of Human Rights (ECHR). This is a matter for the Court. However, from October 2006 to 25 October 2007, the ECHR has notified the FCO of 38 Rule 39 indications, one each in April, and June 2007, followed by 12 in September, and 24 in October concerning Tamils facing removal from the United Kingdom to Sri Lanka.

Sudan: Peacekeeping operations

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what response he has made to the recent report of the United Nations Secretary-General on the deployment of the African Union-United Nations hybrid operation in Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [160613]

Meg Munn: UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1769 requires the UN Secretary-General to report to the Security Council every 30 days on progress in deploying the African Union (AU)/UN hybrid operation in Darfur (UNAMID). He issued his first report on 9 October. The report shows that the UN has made progress in generating troops and in pre-deployment preparations. However, the report also highlights shortfalls in generating helicopters and ground transport. We are supporting the Department of Peacekeeping Operations by lobbying countries with the capability to meet this shortfall to contribute to UNAMID. We also continue to press all sides to ensure UNAMID meets the deployment timetable set out in UNSCR 1769 by assuming authority from the AU Mission in Sudan no later than 31 December 2007, with a view to achieving full operational capability and force strength as soon as possible thereafter.

Switzerland: Elections

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what diplomatic initiatives he plans to take in response to the results of the Swiss elections. [161573]

Mr. Jim Murphy: No new diplomatic initiatives are planned. We enjoy an excellent bilateral relationship with the Swiss Government with regular exchanges at ministerial and official level.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Bankruptcy: Council Tax

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many individual bankruptcy petitions were received by the official receivers where council tax arrears are mentioned as a significant reason in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [150891]

Mr. McFadden: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

British Telecom

Mr. Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many complaints Ofcom has received in the last 12 months from customers relating to contract cancellation fees levied by British Telecom in *(a)* the North West and *(b)* the UK. [156199]

Mr. Timms: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

British Telecom: Billing

Dr. Blackman-Woods: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he has taken to ensure that the recent decision by British Telecom to make additional charges for payment methods other than direct debit will not adversely and disproportionately affect low income and elderly people. [161664]

Mr. Timms: The increased charge for payment methods other than direct debit, does not apply to special tariff schemes for vulnerable customers provided by BT under the universal service obligation.

The independent regulator the Office of Communications (OFCOM) announced on 6 June that it would carry out a full review of communications providers' additional charges. OFCOM expects to

announce the conclusions of its review in the autumn and progress may be monitored on its website www.ofcom.org.uk

The review covers charges for non-direct debit payments, as well as other additional charges including late payment, restoration of service and early termination fees. It also covers fixed and mobile operators, and pay TV services. OFCOM is looking at the nature and level of charges levied by communications providers and how well signposted and transparent such charges are. It is investigating how far consumers are aware of additional charges, whether they are able and willing to shop around on the basis of core prices and additional charges rather than just core prices, and whether there are certain groups of consumers who are unable to do this and therefore may be disadvantaged.

On investigating this issue it became clear that it would be wrong to look at BT in isolation. More than 40 per cent. of homes are provided with telephony services by operators other than BT, and the differentials for payment by non-direct debit range from no extra charge to £15 a quarter. Some providers provide no payment option other than direct debit.

Citizen's Juries

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many citizens' juries were arranged for *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* his Department's and its predecessor's agencies in each year since 1997; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the cost was of each. [160020]

Mr. Timms: Data from 1997 are not readily available and would require a significant review of all engagement activities and analysis of the techniques used, extracting costs for citizens' juries at a disproportionate cost.

Departments: Accountancy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what departmental budget items have been reclassified, under Consolidated Budgeting Guidance, following Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 decisions; and what the *(a)* former and *(b)* new (i) classification and (ii) sum budgeted is in each case. [160410]

Mr. Thomas: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Departments: Carbon Emissions

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the volume of his Department's carbon dioxide emissions was in the last period for which figures are available; when his Department started to offset those emissions; and what the cost is expected to be of offsetting his Department's emissions in 2007-08. [161862]

Mr. Hutton: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Departments: Internet

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for which Government websites he is responsible; how many visitors each received in the latest period for which figures are available; and what the cost *(a)* was of establishing and *(b)* has been of maintaining each site. [135739]

Mr. Hutton: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member before Prorogation.

Departments: Legislation

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which Bills in policy areas for which his Department is responsible introduced in the last five years have contained sunset clauses; and what plans he has for the future use of such clauses. [151835]

Mr. Thomas: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Dr. Cable: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which Bills introduced by his Department and its predecessors in the last five years did not contain sunset clauses; and if he will make a statement. [152489]

Mr. Thomas: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many regulations his Department has *(a)* brought forward and *(b)* revoked over the last 12 months. [158735]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 24 October 2007]:* BERR is responsible for one Act of Parliament receiving Royal Assent in the last 12 months. The former DTI was responsible for two Acts of Parliament receiving Royal Assent within the last 12 months.

Data on Statutory Instruments are published by the Office of Public Sector Information. In the period 1 January 2006 to 30 June 2007, the former DTI was responsible for a total of 160 Statutory Instruments. Data for the period 1 July 2007 to date have not been published yet.

Many of these individual pieces of legislation will update, replace or revoke existing legislation either completely or in part. Detail at the level of individual pieces of legislation can only be produced at disproportionate cost.

The Government have committed to a 25 per cent. reduction in administrative burdens arising from regulation by 2010. In delivering this commitment, the Government are also repealing regulations where appropriate. BERR's Simplification Plan 2007 will be published later this year.

Departments: Manpower

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what percentage of employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by his Department are above state retirement age. [158945]

Mr. Thomas: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member for Prorogation.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people are employed by his Department; and how many are *(a)* permanent employees and *(b)* temporary staff. [161864]

Mr. Timms: As of the 1 October 2007, BERR employs 2,529 people, of whom 48 are temporary staff.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the name is of each special adviser in his Department. [153134]

Mr. Thomas: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether any of his Department's special advisers have declared a conflict of interest. [160776]

Mr. Thomas: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Departments: Pay

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for and Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many bonuses were awarded to senior civil servants working at the Department and its agencies in each year between 1997 and 2006 ; and what the total cost was of those bonuses. [146492]

Mr. Timms: Annual performance bonuses are paid to staff in the SCS for high performance sustained throughout the whole year. The percentage of the SCS pay bill to be spent on SCS performance bonuses is determined each year by the senior salaries review body.

As the SCS bonus scheme was only introduced in 2002, information is provided from this point forward.

	Number of staff awarded bonuses	*Total amount of bonuses paid (£)*
2002	103	292,776
2003	123	472,148
2004	116	516,000
2005	162	747,500
2006	152	1,143,000

The data relate to bonuses awarded to those in core-DTI and its Executive Agencies in accordance with Cabinet Office Senior Civil Service pay arrangements.

Departments: Public Expenditure

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on what dates his Department has breached its *(a)* resource, *(b)* near-cash, *(c)* administration and *(d)* capital budgets since 2001; what the value of the breach was; and what the reason was for each breach. [160321]

Mr. Thomas: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Departments: Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many citizens' juries have been arranged by his Department since June 2007; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the estimated cost is of each exercise. [159503]

Mr. Hutton: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member before Prorogation.

Departments: Publications

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment his Department has made of the impact of its publication Overseas Trade on the market for other international trade magazines. [149919]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 16 July 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Departments: Renewable Energy

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what percentage of the electricity used by his Department was generated from *(a)* renewable sources and *(b)* on-site microgeneration facilities in the last period for which figures are available. [161861]

Mr. Hutton: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Departments: Retirement

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many employees in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each (i) executive agency and (ii) non-departmental public body funded by his Department applied to continue to work beyond state retirement age in the latest year or part thereof for which figures are available; and how many of those applications were successful. [161291]

Mr. Thomas: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Departments: Stationery

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much the Department for Trade and Industry spent on departmental branded stationery between 1 January and 27 June. [159789]

Mr. Thomas: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Departments: Tribunals

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent by his Department on industrial tribunals in the last 12 months. [153126]

Mr. Thomas: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Departments: Visits Abroad

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many overseas visits were made by *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers within his responsibility, and at what cost, in each year since 1997. [151645]

Mr. Thomas: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member before Prorogation.

Insurance: Liability

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he plans to examine the experience of Australian reforms to the liability insurance market in the construction industry in order to inform his policy towards the UK construction industry; and if he will make a statement. [161415]

Mr. Timms: The Department has no such plans.

The Department has regular contacts with the construction industry about issues of concern.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he plans to review the operation of liability insurance in the construction industry; and if he will make a statement. [161662]

Mr. Timms: The Department has no plans to review the operation of liability insurance in the construction industry.

Iran: Export Credit Guarantees

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 3 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 1816W, on Iran: export credit guarantees, what conclusions have been reached about the applicability of UN Security Council Resolution 1747 to the provision of export credits to Iran; and if he will make a statement. [157523]

Mr. Hutton: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member before Prorogation.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Forest of Dean dated 16 July to the Prime Minister, the right hon. Member for Kirkcaldy and Cowdenbeath (Mr. Brown) regarding review of nuclear energy use. [158038]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 15 October 2007]*: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Mobile Telephones: Radio Frequencies

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which spectrum bands will be affected by pan-European proposals on spectrum use by mobile telephone contractors; what assessment he has made of the impact of these proposals on *(a)* those already occupying these channels and *(b)* Ofcom's consultation process on spectrum allocation; and if he will make a statement. [153533]

Mr. Timms: The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the chief executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Non-Domestic Rates: Small Businesses

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what steps his Department is taking to ensure that local authorities achieve high levels of uptake of the Small Business Rate Relief scheme amongst small businesses; [161647]

(2) what the average value of unmade claims for the Small Business Rate Relief scheme was in *(a)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland, *(b)* Teesside and *(c)* in the North East in the last period for which figures are available; [161648]

(3) what the take-up of the Small Business Rate Relief scheme was in *(a)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland, *(b)* Teesside and *(c)* in the North East in the most recent period for which figures are available. [161671]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend in the time available before Prorogation.

Nuclear Power Stations

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he expects the *(a)* Health and Safety Executive and *(b)* Nuclear Installations Inspectorate to hire external

consultants to carry out the process of generic design assessment for new nuclear power stations. [145874]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 26 June 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made by the Environment Agency on the process of pre-authorisation for new nuclear power stations; and if he will make a statement. [145875]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 26 June 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made on the process of generic design assessment for new nuclear power stations; and if he will make a statement. [145876]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 26 June 2007]:* Following a request from the Government, the regulators, published their guidance on the Generic Design Assessment process in January 2007.

The consultation document "The Future of Nuclear Power" invited vendors of reactor designs who were interested in having their designs assessed to send applications to the regulators. The deadline for applications was 22 June 2007.

The next step is an assessment of which of the applications received meet the criteria set down in the consultation document. Following this step, this Department, along with the other regulators, will be able to begin work on the generic design assessment process.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the capability of the Environment Agency to undertake the process of pre-authorisation for new nuclear power stations. [145877]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 26 June 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the capability of the *(a)* Health and Safety Executive and *(b)* Nuclear Installations Inspectorate to undertake the process of Generic Design Assessment for new nuclear power stations. [145878]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 26 June 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Nuclear Power Stations: Construction

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he expects the Environment Agency to hire external consultants to carry out the process of pre-authorisation for new nuclear power stations. [145852]

Mr. Hutton: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform by what date he expects the first design consent to be granted following the process of generic design assessment for new nuclear power stations. [145853]

Mr. Hutton: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform by what date he expects the first pre-authorisation consent for new nuclear power stations to be granted by the Environment Agency. [145854]

Mr. Hutton: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what budget his Department has allocated to the *(a)* Health and Safety Executive and *(b)* Nuclear Installations Inspectorate to carry out the process of generic design assessment for new nuclear power stations. [145855]

Mr. Hutton: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what budget his Department has allocated to the Environment Agency to carry out the process of pre-authorisation for new nuclear power stations. [145856]

Mr. Hutton: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many proposed designs the *(a)* Health and Safety Executive and *(b)* Nuclear Installations Inspectorate had received for generic design assessment by 22 June. [145857]

Malcolm Wicks: The consultation document "The Future of Nuclear Power", published on 23 May 2007 invited vendors of nuclear reactor designs who are interested in having their designs assessed through the Generic Design Assessment process to write to the regulators' Joint Programme Office by 22 June 2007.

By this date, the regulators had received four applications for Generic Design Assessment. The next step will be an assessment of which of these applications meet the criteria set down in the consultation document. Following this step the applications and the result of the assessment will be published.

Office of Fair Trading: Pay

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many full-time members of staff there are at the Office of Fair Trading; and how many receive salaries of *(a)* between £50,000 and £100,000, *(b)* between £100,000 and £150,000 and *(c)* above £150,000. [161863]

Mr. Hutton: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Overseas Investment

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his estimate is of the value of shares held by UK incorporated companies in foreign companies. [154822]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 10 September 2007]:* This information is not held by Companies House.

Packaging

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry for what reasons the provisions permitting companies to take private action through the courts against competitors who make use of misleading packaging were not included in the legislation transposing the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive into UK law. [140403]

Mr. Hutton: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry what assessment he has made of the ability of UK manufacturers to prevent competitors from misrepresenting their products through the use of misleading and copycat packaging under the provisions of the Unfair Commercial Practices Directive. [140404]

Mr. Hutton: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Pipelines: Sakhalin Island

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether it is the Government's policy to require full compliance with World Bank and International Finance Corporation Standards if the Export Credits Guarantee Department is to support the Sakhalin II project. [161247]

Malcolm Wicks: ECGD's policy in respect of its assessment of the environmental, social and human rights impacts of projects is set out in its Case Impact Analysis Process, which is available on the ECGD website.

Post Offices: Closures

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many local area plans for the closure of sub-post offices will be developed for consultation; and on what date each such plan will be published for consultation. [148583]

Mr. McFadden: Post Office Ltd is continuing to work on implementation plans for local consultation on changes to the Post Office network following the Government's announcement of 17 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 753. The company will undertake around 50 distinct area plans and a timetable published on its website shows when they expect to consult locally on proposals for changes in each area.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the level of post office turnover of the impending closure of 2,500 post offices, broken down by region. [160130]

Mr. McFadden: Any such assessment would be an operational and budgetary matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply directly to the hon. Member.

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many jobs he estimates will be lost as a *(a)* direct and *(b)* indirect result of the closure of 2,500 post offices, broken down by region. [160131]

Mr. McFadden: The Government has introduced a range of criteria that guarantee a national level of access to post office services with additional safeguards for those most in need, such as communities in rural areas. In developing its area plan proposals for post office closures, Post Office Ltd takes into consideration the impact on the local economy of each community affected.

The number of jobs likely to be lost directly as a result of post office closures is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd and I have therefore asked the Managing Director, Alan Cook, to reply direct to the hon. member.

It is not possible to say what the impact of post office closures and substituting outreach for current services will be on any associated retail business and the number of any indirect job losses arising from this until the implementation of Post Office Ltd's network change programme is completed.

Postal Services

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his policy is on *(a)* changes to the daily delivery times of mail to residential addresses and *(b)* the collection of post on Sundays. [157269]

Mr. McFadden: Delivery times and collections are operational matters for Royal Mail in conjunction with Postcomm within the wider context of the Universal Service Obligation (USO).

Sunday postings are very low, but add a huge amount of cost to the business. Royal Mail has to control its costs and has therefore stopped these collections.

The Government are committed to the maintenance of a universal postal service and Postcomm's primary duty is to ensure this. Sunday and Bank Holiday collections are not part of the universal service obligation.

Power Stations

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the expected annual *(a)* power output, *(b)* primary energy input and *(c)* carbon emissions are of (i) Port Talbot Power Station, (ii) Uskmouth Power Station and (iii) New Pembroke Power Station; and if he will make a statement. [161828]

Malcolm Wicks: Port Talbot is a 1,300 MW combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) generating station, Uskmouth is a 800 MW CCGT and Pembroke is a 2,000 MW CCGT.

All will be fuelled by natural gas and emissions of carbon will be approximately half of those from a coal-fired station.

Power Stations: Planning Permission

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when his Department expects to make a decision on the application for planning consent for *(a)* Port Talbot Power Station, *(b)* Uskmouth Power Station and *(c)* New Pembroke Power Station; and if he will make a statement. [161827]

Malcolm Wicks: Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council has objected to the proposal to build a combined cycle gas turbine (CCGT) power station at Port Talbot. A public inquiry will now have to be held into the application before any decision can be taken.

Consent under section 36 of the Electricity Act 1989 for a 800 MW CCGT at Uskmouth was granted on 17 August 2007.

Discussions on the proposed 2,000 MW CCGT station at Pennar Point, Pembroke are ongoing between the Environment Agency, the Countryside Council for Wales, Pembrokeshire county council, RWE and the Department. Until these discussions are concluded it is too early to say when a decision will be taken.

Prices: Information

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 100-1W, on prices: information, if he will place in the Library a copy of the brief given to Cambridge university when it was commissioned to undertake the study. [161876]

Mr. Thomas: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend before Prorogation.

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 22 October 2007, *Official Report*, columns 100-01W, on prices: information, if he will list the stakeholders which the experts from Cambridge University *(a)* have met and *(b)* plan to meet. [161877]

Mr. Thomas: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend before Prorogation.

Radioactive Waste: Waste Management

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to provide him with its report on site end states for those facilities of which it has ownership; and whether that report will provide information on *(a)* the radioactive waste storage and/or disposal requirements for each site, *(b)* the costs for waste storage and *(c)* the expected timeline for decommissioning and closure of those stores. [161789]

Malcolm Wicks: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend before Prorogation.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make a statement on the progress of Dr. Tim Stone's review into arrangements for the costs associated with potential nuclear new build decommissioning and waste management. [161837]

Mr. Hutton: It has not proved possible to respond to hon. Member before Prorogation.

Radioactive Wastes: Security

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will publish an update on the review of security arrangements for nuclear waste storage being undertaken by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. [161788]

Malcolm Wicks: It has not proved possible to respond to my hon. Friend before Prorogation.

Regional Development Agencies: Finance

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the total budget is for each regional development agency for *(a)* 2007-08, *(b)* 2008-09, *(c)* 2009-10 and *(d)* 2010-11. [159951]

Mr. Timms: The Regional Development Agencies' allocated budgets for 2007-08 are set out in the table. The Department has also given them indicative budgets for 2008-09 to 2010-11 to enable them to produce Corporate Plans for approval in the new year.

£000

RDA	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Advantage West Midlands	290,960	279,064	275,378	268,914
East of England Development Agency	136,557	131,803	130,228	127,184

RDA	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	£000 2010-11
East Midlands Development Agency	175,536	159,709	157,668	153,972
London Development Agency	374,149	389,674	384,626	375,604
North West Development Agency	395,003	391,611	386,442	377,371
One North East	277,050	247,696	244,361	238,619
South East England Development Agency	162,887	159,707	157,832	154,145
South West of England Regional Development Agency	159,339	156,981	155,053	151,425
Yorkshire Forward	304,316	303,049	299,048	292,028

Regional Development Grants

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* research grants and *(b)* development grants were made by each regional development agency (RDA) in each of the last five years; what the value of each of those grants was; and what the total budget for each RDA was for each type of grant in each year. [160626]

Mr. Timms: The number of grants for Research and Development given by Regional Development Agencies in each of the last five years is set out in the following tables.

There were a large number of research and development grant issued during the period and information on the value of each individual grant, which is not held centrally, can be obtained only at disproportionate costs.

My Department does not set the RDA budgets for research and development as RDAs have been given flexibility to use their single budgets on the key regional priorities identified by their Boards. The amounts each RDA has spent in total on research and development is shown in the following tables.

Number and value of grant for R and D offers made 2002-03

	Research		Development	
Region	Number	Value (£)	Number	Value (£)
East	104	4,566,175	63	5,205,274
East Midlands	31	1,386,516	38	3,546,216
London	43	2,106,426	31	1,816,641
North East	24	1,057,084	12	461,036
North West	74	3,273,547	60	3,615,514
South East	127	3,168,398	71	6,717,617
South West	29	1,290,119	36	1,108,151
West Midlands	28	1,083,382	15	1,308,370
Yorks and Humber	37	1,608,495	61	3,178,704

Number and value of grant for R and D offers made 2003-04

	Research		Development	
Region	Number	Value (£)	Number	Value (£)
East	113	5,513,048	61	6,841,673
East Midlands	29	1,293,055	35	2,537,226
London	66	3,450,712	43	4,246,077
North East	20	909,488	17	1,374,583
North West	74	3,719,914	71	4,531,199
South East	108	5,107,287	95	7,808,286
South West	12	623,849	34	2,089,794
West Midlands	12	515,276	24	2,228,142
Yorks and Humber	52	2,464,041	53	4,174,226

Number and value of grant for R and D offers made 2004-05

	Research		Development	
Region	Number	Value (£)	Number	Value (£)
East	28	1,777,014	37	4,008,912
East Midlands	12	712,592	10	984,615
London	30	2,021,920	18	2,721,788
North East	8	468,736	21	2,108,381
North West	18	1,143,120	35	4,405,885
South East	13	751,946	30	2,705,912
South West	6	242,638	13	1,080,915
West Midlands	10	594,287	19	1,826,892
Yorks and Humber	21	1,356,361	28	1,746,950

Number and value of grant for R and D offers made 2005-06

	Research		Development	
Region	Value(£)	Number	Number	Value(£)
East	18	1,111,361	9	1,234,000
East Midlands	7	464,950	21	1,958,931
London	17	1,163,236	14	2,055,717
North East	4	202,312	18	1,149,848
North West	6	447,590	11	1,505,211
South East	26	1,601,827	36	2,464,127
South West	3	190,418	5	170,742
West Midlands	8	428,941	12	1,215,036

Number and value of grant for R and D offers made 2005-06

Region	Research Value(£)	Research Number	Development Number	Development Value(£)
Yorks and Humber	17	1,078,164	23	2,353,779

Number and value of grant for R and D offers made 2006-07

Region	Research Number	Research Value(£)	Development Number	Development Value(£)
East	17	1,182,781	21	2,273,295
East Midlands	20	1,298,162	41	3,957,424
London	8	561,985	20	1,242,743
North East	14	1,007,465	21	1,787,300
North West	11	665,560	36	3,542,250
South East	28	1,822,506	25	2,150,210
South West	8	425,393	19	1,745,828
West Midlands	11	628,878	15	1,038,758
Yorks and Humber	10	634,792	33	2,815,132

Renewable Energy

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry if he will break down by area of planned expenditure the provision for *(a)* new and renewable sources of energy and *(b)* capital grants to the private sector in relation to renewable energy recorded under function D on page 185 of his Department's Departmental Report 2006, Cm 6826. [144785]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 25 June 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate his Department has made of the total proportion of UK *(a)* electricity and *(b)* energy which will come from renewable sources by (i) 2010, (ii) 2015 and (iii) 2020. [144918]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 25 June 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Renewable Energy: Standards

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make it his policy *(a)* to set targets in the UK and *(b)* to support the setting of targets in EU member states to reach the EU target of 20 per cent. of energy from renewable sources by 2020 through increases in renewable energy capacity; if he will make it his policy not to use or support targets based on tradable certificates; and if he will make a statement. [161790]

Malcolm Wicks: In common with other EU Governments, we agreed at this year's Spring European Council to the setting of national targets derived from the overall EU renewables target. We have not yet come to a firm position on whether tradable certificates should play a part in enabling those targets to be met.

Royal Mail: Government Assistance

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2007, *Official Report*, column 146W, on Royal Mail: Government assistance, in which town or city the advisers from Deloitte were based. [147611]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 4 July 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Trade Unions: Government Assistance

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulator Reform what Government grants were available to trade unions; and how much was paid out through such schemes in each year between 1997 and 2006, broken down by scheme and recipient. [134183]

Mr. McFadden: Since 1997 the Government have had three strategic funds to encourage better industrial relations and increase modern working practices. The Partnership at Work Fund and the Strategic Partnership fund were available to both companies and unions. The following tables give (a) the commitments to unions under the Partnership at Work Fund and, (b) actual payments to unions under the Strategic Partnership Fund and the Union Modernisation Fund.

(a) Funds committed to unions 2000-03

Union	Year in which commitment made	Amount given (£)	Fund
AEEU	2000	49,912	Partnership Fund[1]
Unison	2000	32,500	Partnership Fund
Community and Youth Workers Union	2000	50,000	Partnership Fund
Unison	2000	13,440	Partnership Fund
TUC	2000	14,450	Partnership Fund
TUC	2000	24,300	Partnership Fund
Scottish TUC	2000	37,575	Partnership Fund
MSF	2000	20,000	Partnership Fund
Royal College of Midwives	2000	34,000	Partnership Fund
MSF	2000	30,000	Partnership Fund

(a) Funds committed to unions 2000-03

Union	Year in which commitment made	Amount given (£)	Fund
MSF	2000	26,405	Partnership fund
Unison	2000	50,000	Partnership fond
TGWU	2001	50,000	Partnership Fund
Unison	2001	14,000	Partnership Fund
Numast	2002	36,800	Partnership Fund
Amicus	2002	47,360	Partnership fund
TUC	2002	43,015	Partnership Fund
TGWU	2002	42,276	Partnership Fund
Royal College of Nursing	2002	18,650	Partnership Fund
Unison	2003	50,000	Partnership Fund

[1] The Partnership at Work Fund was a Government grant scheme established by the DTI created in 1999 to encourage the development of industrial relations by encouraging employers and employees to work together effectively. The Partnership at Work Fund supported partnership projects within individual organisations. The fund is now closed.

(b) Funds paid to unions

Union	Amount (£)	Fund
Year ended 31 March 2005		
TUC	26,472	Strategic Partnership Fund[1]
GPMU	3,880	Strategic Partnership Fund
GMB	96,871	Strategic Partnership Fund
Amicus	37,592	Strategic Partnership Fund
TUC	12,544	Strategic Partnership Fund
UCATT	61,045	Strategic Partnership Fund
Year ended 31 March 2006		
TUC	21,512	Strategic Partnership Fund
GMB	108,000	Strategic Partnership Fund
Amicus	261,381	Strategic Partnership Fund
TUC	34,270	Strategic Partnership Fund
UCATT	69,898	Strategic Partnership Fund
Year ended 31 March 2007		
GMB	15,000	Strategic Partnership Fund
TUC	68,000	Strategic Partnership Fund
UCATT	4,443	Strategic Partnership Fund
GMB	23,340.53	Union Modernisation Fund[2]
Wales TUC	12,252.64	Union Modernisation Fund
National Union of Teachers	7,377.84	Union Modernisation Fund
Royal College of Midwives	43,329.35	Union Modernisation Fund
Union of Finance Staff	7,083.30	Union Modernisation Fund
United Road Transport Union	24,330.00	Union Modernisation Fund
Community and District Nursing Association	8,125.65	Union Modernisation Fund
British Dental Association	6,047.75	Union Modernisation Fund
Connect	28,647.63	Union Modernisation Fund
USDAW	104,011.73	Union Modernisation Fund
National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers	32,489.00	Union Modernisation Fund
National Union of Journalists	11,475.34	Union Modernisation Fund
ASLEF	13,232.25	Union Modernisation Fund
General Federation of Trade Unions	23,284.48	Union Modernisation Fund
Portman Group Staff Association	6,070.70	Union Modernisation Fund

[1] Strategic Partnership projects reach out beyond single company projects to assess sectoral and regional issues.
[2] The Union Modernisation Fund provides financial assistance to independent trade unions and their federations in support of innovative projects, which contribute to, or explore the potential for transformational change in the organisational effectiveness of efficiency of a union or unions, in the light of the changing needs, aspirations and behaviour of workers and employers in the changing UK Labour market.

Trade: Barbados

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many officials in his Department work on promoting trade between the United Kingdom and Barbados, broken down by grade; and how many did so in *(a)* 1983, *(b)* 1987, *(c)* 1992, *(d)* 1997 and *(e)* each year between 1998 and 2005. [161084]

Mr. Thomas: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Trade: Bermuda

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many officials in his Department work on promoting trade between the United Kingdom and Bermuda, broken down by grade; and how many did so in *(a)* 1983, *(b)* 1987, *(c)* 1992, *(d)* 1997 and *(e)* each year between 1998 and 2005. [161083]

Mr. Thomas: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps he has *(a)* taken and *(b)* plans to take to increase trade between the United Kingdom and Bermuda; how much his Department has spent on trade promotion between the United Kingdom and Bermuda; and if he will make a statement. [161088]

Mr. Thomas: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

UK Trade and Investment: Defence Export Service Organisation

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he was informed of the Prime Minister's decision to close the Defence Exports Services Organisation and to move part of its remit to UK Trade and Investment. [160069]

Mr. Thomas: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Union Modernisation Fund

Alan Duncan: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many applications have been received for round 2 funding under the Union Modernisation Fund; and for each what the *(a)* applicant union, *(b)* project title and *(c)* amount of funding applied for was in each case. [148352]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 9 July 2007]:* It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member before Prorogation.

Wind Power

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what representations he has had from *(a)* the Ministry of Defence, *(b)* the shipping industry and *(c)* other marine-based industries on the development of off-shore wind power. [161731]

Malcolm Wicks: The Department has received a number of representations in recent years from the Ministry of Defence and marine-based industries covering a range of issues relating to the development of offshore wind power.

We take a proactive approach in engaging with stakeholders in these areas. For example, we have established a number of for a—including the Offshore Renewable Energy and Environmental Forum (OREEF), the Fishing Liaison with Offshore Wind and Wet Renewables Group (FLOWW), the Nautical and Offshore Renewable Energy Liaison Group (NOREL) and the Aviation Steering Group—in order to engage effectively with stakeholders.

Winfrith Nuclear Research Establishment

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what representations he has received on the future maintenance and safety of the Winfrith nuclear site; and if he will make a statement; [158479]

(2) what representations he has received on reductions in funding to UKAEA Winfrith; and if he will make a statement. [158480]

Malcolm Wicks *[holding answer 16 October 2007]:* My Department has received representations from stakeholders concerning the funding of nuclear decommissioning and clean up programmes at Winfrith and I met with the hon. Member for Wantage (Mr. Vaizey), on 8 October to discuss the matter. The NDA have also received representations on this, and will shortly be publishing for consultation its three year business plan which will set out its proposed allocation of funds across its 19 designated sites. It is for the NDA to plan programmes in consultation with the site licence companies. Safety remains the highest priority for the Government and the NDA.

Yorkshire Forward Regional Development Agency: Stationery

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent by Yorkshire Forward Regional Development Agency on headed paper in each of the last five years; and what each figure represents per sheet. [159954]

Mr. Timms: Over the last five years, between 2003-07, Yorkshire Forward, the regional development agency for Yorkshire and the Humber have spent a total of £173,259, on 2,511 reams of headed paper based on an average purchase price of £69 per ream. This in turn represents a figure of 14p per sheet.

The breakdown for each year is as follows:

	Year cost (£)	Number of reams	Cost (pence per sheet)
2003	18,492	268	0.14
2004	60,927	883	0.14
2005	72,312	1,048	0.14
2006	17,733	257	0.14
2007 (to date)	3,795	[1]55	0.14

[1] To date

Yorkshire Forward are in the process of changing the design of their headed paper from two-sided to one sided printing, and from four colours to two colours. This should reduce the cost per ream by approximately 50 per cent.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* ambushed and *(b)* improvised explosive device attacks were carried out against International Security Assistance Force troops in Helmand Province in each month in 2007. [161776]

Des Browne: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* commanders and *(b)* foot soldiers surrendered to (i) the International Security Assistance Force and (ii) the Afghan National Army in each month in 2007. [161777]

Des Browne: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Pinzgauer vector protected patrol vehicles have been issued to British forces in Afghanistan; how many such vehicles have been subject to mine and improvised explosive device strikes; and how many personnel have been killed or seriously injured while crewing such vehicles as a result of such strikes. [155173]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* We are in the process of implementing a programme to deploy Vector vehicles to support UK forces in Afghanistan. I am withholding the number of vehicles deployed as disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

I am withholding details of incidents in which the UK military personnel have been killed or seriously injured by mine and improvised explosive devices whilst crewing Vector as disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

However, I can confirm that as of 28 October 2007, two British soldiers have been killed in Afghanistan by a mine or improvised explosive device while crewing Vector vehicles.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Mastiff protected patrol vehicles have been *(a)* issued to British Forces in Afghanistan and *(b)* subject to mine/IED strikes; and how many personnel have been killed or seriously injured while crewing such vehicles as a result of such strikes. [155183]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 12 September 2007]:* We are in the process of implementing a programme to deploy the Mastiff vehicle to support UK forces in Afghanistan. In his statement to the House on 8 October, the Prime Minister announced that we would procure an additional 140 Mastiff vehicles, in addition to the 100 announced on 24 July 2006, *Official Report*, column 74WS. I am withholding the precise number of vehicles deployed in Afghanistan as disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

I am withholding details of incidents in which UK military personnel were injured, as disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 24 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 331W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, what the full strength of 12 Mechanised Brigade was at the start of their tour; and how many of the 213 personnel evacuated from Helmand were replaced with new personnel. [161826]

Des Browne: Approximately 4,600 of the approximately 7,400 UK personnel deployed to Afghanistan this summer were part of 12 Mechanised Brigade. The remainder were part of the National Support Element or units or individuals operating outside the 12 Mechanised Brigade chain of command but still taking part in the ISAF mission.

Units of the UK armed forces deploy with sufficient numbers to allow resilience for rest and recuperation and any casualties and fatalities which may occur during their operational tour. If the operational capability of a unit is threatened by reductions in a unit's deployed establishment further unit augmentation can be provided but we do not have a formal process of replacing fatalities and casualties with new personnel.

Air Force: Military Bases

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future of *(a)* RAF Leeming, *(b)* RAF Linton and *(c)* Dishforth Airfield. [161476]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As my predecessor advised the hon. Member on 26 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 1355W, and 18 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 991W, the number and operation of military airfields is under constant review to ensure that the best use is made of the Defence Estate for our armed forces.

As my predecessor also advised the hon. Member, the long term future of RAF Leeming is secure.

RAF Linton-on-Ouse is one of six main sites that currently provide UK military flying training. The station may be affected by the UK Military Flying Training System (MFTS) procurement project which will cater for the future flying training needs of the armed forces. No decisions have yet been taken.

As my predecessor advised the hon. Member on 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 820W, we are currently reviewing our long-term requirements for all of the UK's military helicopter bases under Programme Belvedere. It is too early to say what the outcome of this study will be and what, if any, impact this will have on Dishforth Airfield. I will inform the House when I am able to say more.

Armed Forces: Casualties

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many high dependency battle casualties have been treated at *(a)* Selly Oak, *(b)* Headley Court and *(c)* other units in 2007; and how many were treated in each preceding year since March 2003. [161318]

Derek Twigg *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* The number of casualties classified as Very Seriously Injured (VSI) and Seriously Injured (SI) since current operations started in Iraq (2003) and Afghanistan (2001) are published and updated regularly on the MOD website.

"High Dependency Battle Casualties" are not recorded as a separate classification of military patient. The majority of our battlefield casualties requiring hospital treatment receive this in NHS hospitals in Birmingham prior to transfer to the Defence Medical Rehabilitation Centre at Headley Court for rehabilitation where this is clinically appropriate. In exceptional circumstances, such as in cases of severe brain trauma, spinal injuries and severe burns, a very few patients at any one time have been referred to other specialist facilities (either NHS or private) to ensure they receive the best possible care

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many UK *(a)* casualties and *(b)* high dependency casualties from Iraq and Afghanistan have been treated in US hospitals. [161570]

Derek Twigg: The information is not held centrally.

Armed Forces: Complaints

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the estimated cost to date is of recruitment of a service complaints commissioner; by what means and where the post was advertised; on what date advertisements were placed in which publications; how many applications were received; and how many further posts will be advertised for the Commissioner's Office; [161633]

(2) what consideration he has given to providing office facilities for the Service Complaints Commissioner located outside the Ministry of Defence establishment. [161634]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The recruitment process for the Service Complaints Commissioner closely follows the Civil Service Commissioners' Recruitment Code to ensure appointment on merit following a fair and open competition. The recruitment campaign cost some £40,500 (including VAT), which includes the use of independent recruitment consultants, advertisements in the national press and on the internet. The post was advertised in *The Sunday Times* Public Appointments section on 3 June and *The Times* Public Agenda section on 5 June. 93 applications were received for the post.

Other matters related to the Service Complaints Commissioner's office will be for the Commissioner to decide.

We expect to announce the appointment of the Service Complaints Commissioner shortly.

Armed Forces: Coroners

Mr. Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on legal representation of his Department's interests at inquests into the deaths of service men and women on active service overseas held since the commencement of the second Iraq War. [160757]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* A coroner's inquest is a non-adversarial fact finding inquiry at which there is rarely a need for legal representation and in the majority of inquests MOD does not instruct a legal team. Where MOD, as an interested person, does engage legal representation this is to assist the coroner in his statutory function where, for example, complex or novel issues may arise.

Up to 30 September 2007 MOD has spent approximately £661,096 on external legal representation at 30 inquests held into deaths of service personnel arising from operations in Iraq and Afghanistan since 19/20 March 2003. Of this, £8,841, at nine inquests, involved legal expenditure incurred to assist the coroner prior to the hearings at which the MOD was not otherwise legally represented.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what average number of nights members of *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Navy, *(c)* the Royal Air Force and *(d)* all service personnel spent away from home in each year since 1997. [155796]

Derek Twigg: Time spent away from 'the family home' is not recorded for members of the armed forces. Time spent away is measured when an individual is away from their normal place of duty and is referred to as Separated Service (SS). Statistics are presented in the form of percentages of personnel breaching harmony rather than average number of nights spent away per person. Recording of SS only began in 2004 for all three Services.

Army

Information on Army Separated Service is published in the quarterly 'Army Separated Service Report'. To enable reporting against Service Individual Harmony Guidelines (IHG), the Army Separated Service Report publishes periods of separation over a period of 30

months. Harmony guidelines recommend that a soldier should do no more than 415 days SS in any 30-month period. Latest Army statistics state that 10.3 per cent. of the Army is spending more than 415 days away from home base in a 30-month period, down by 3.1 per cent. since 1 January 2007, which equates to around 9,935 Army personnel exceeding harmony guidelines.

Royal Navy

Before April 2004, SS was not recorded for individuals. However, for the period from 1997 until April 2004, units were programmed to meet a '60:40' operational pattern—60 per cent. deployed away from Base Port; 40 per cent. working at Base Port. Personnel attached to such a unit could therefore be assumed to have spent 60 per cent. (219 days) of a year away from their Base Port.

In 2004 the recording of SS for individuals was introduced. The threshold for individual SS is currently 660 days away in a rolling 3-year period (referred to as 660/3) as a Category A (mandatory) Personnel Functional Standard (PFS). This guarantees individuals a minimum of 435 days at the home base over 3 years' harmony time. Due to the proactive management of individuals there is currently <1 per cent. of Naval Service personnel breaching the harmony guidelines of 660/3. Currently around 59 Naval personnel are breaching harmony.

Royal Air Force

The Royal Air Force operates a slightly different system which allows for greater flexibility within Expeditionary Air Wings. Under Harmony Guidelines an individual can be away for up to 140 days in a 12-month period before breaching harmony. However, the aspiration is not to deploy an individual for more than four months in every 20. The current SS figure (that is to say, those RAF personnel spending more than 140 days away from the home base in a 12-month period) is 6.7 per cent. of trained strength (around 2,918 RAF personnel).

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department's Harmony Guidelines have been met across all three services since the publication of the Autumn Performance Report in 2006. [160027]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 22 October 2007]:* Updated figures are set out in the 2007-08 first quarter performance report, copies of which are available at the MOD website:

www.mod.uk.

Armed Forces: Divorce

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the divorce rate is among serving personnel in *(a)* the Army, *(b)* the Royal Navy, *(c)* the Royal Air Force and *(d)* all services. [155797]

Derek Twigg: This information is no longer held centrally, following the phased implementation of the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system.

To collect and collate marital status from units, in order to produce figures for divorce rates, could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps his Department has taken to ensure that NHS boards in Scotland are *(a)* aware of and *(b)* implementing their responsibilities in respect of the treatment of armed services personnel and veterans. [160510]

Derek Twigg: The responsibility of ensuring NHS boards in Scotland are aware of and implementing their responsibilities in respect of the treatment of armed services and veterans is a matter for the Scottish Executive. The MOD has regular discussions at various levels to assist them in this respect.

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department paid in accelerated access fees to provide service personnel and veterans with priority access to NHS facilities in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Scotland in the last year for which figures are available. [160511]

Derek Twigg: In financial year 2006-07 the Ministry of Defence paid just under £30 million for activity (out-patient and in-patient care) for Service personnel from the five NHS trusts hosting MOD Hospital Units (MDHUs) and from University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHBFT) which hosts the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine. Under previous agreements, the MOD pays for all treatment for Service personnel at the five MDHU hosting NHS hospital Trusts and UHBFT.

Of this total, around £6.5 million was paid for emergency care delivered under NHS emergency access standards, and the balance of around £23.5 million was paid for elective treatment.

While the Ministry of Defence pays standard NHS tariffs as any other commissioner of secondary healthcare, we seek to invest this £23.5 million to gain optimal accelerated access for the assessment and treatment of Service personnel in a faster timescale than NHS standard target times to meet operational requirements.

In addition to the aforementioned sums, the MOD spends around £1 million annually for accelerated access outside the MDHU host Trusts and UHBFT. This includes paying for rapid access to MRI scans for Service personnel undergoing rehabilitation at one of our Regional Rehabilitation Units in the UK to provide an early diagnostic capability.

Veterans who are in receipt of benefits for a condition attributable to their service in the armed forces are entitled to priority treatment from the NHS for this condition. The MOD does not pay for priority treatment for veterans; the cost of this falls to the relevant health authority.

Armed Forces: Housing

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service living accommodation and service families' accommodation units were empty in each of the last 12 months; and how much his Department paid in rent to Annington Homes for these properties over that period. [158374]

Derek Twigg: The number of single living accommodation (SLA) bedspaces unoccupied over each of the last 12 months is not available. However, as at 1 April 2007, there were some 34,181 unoccupied bedspaces out of a total number of some 138,000 bedspaces. The Ministry of Defence does not pay any rent to Annington Homes Ltd. (AHL) for SLA.

The total number of empty Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties during each of the previous 12 months are shown in the table. The numbers have been sub-divided into those empty properties in England/Wales and Scotland. The reason for this is that the Department does not pay rent to Annington Homes Limited (AHL) on the housing stock in Scotland as they are not owned by AHL.

The MOD pays 42 per cent. of the annual market rent of each property to AHL. This can be averaged out at approximately £3,500 per property per annum.

	England and Wales			
	Number	*£ million*	*Scotland (Number)*	*Total (Number)*
2006				
September	7,819	27.36	834	8,653
October	7,941	27.70	855	8,796
November	8,004	28.01	844	8,848
December	8,016	28.06	879	8,895
2007				
January	8,197	28.69	893	9,090
February	8,335	29.17	921	9,256
March	8,462	29.61	916	9,378
April	8,190	28.66	833	9,023
May	8,294	29.03	822	9,116
June	8,424	29.48	835	9,259
July	8,457	29.60	833	9,290
August	8,639	30.24	871	9,510
September	8,422	29.48	958	9,380
October	8,253	28.78	963	9,216

It should be noted that Service personnel who are married or are in a civil partnership have an entitlement to Service Family Accommodation (SFA) as part of their conditions of service. To meet this obligation it is necessary for Defence Estates to queue homes for people; this differs from the situation in local authorities who manage waiting lists. This involves holding properties as a management margin to achieve this objective.

At present, a number of SFA are held pending planned moves of Service Units and this figure will decrease as moves occur. In addition, sufficient void levels have to be maintained to allow properties to be modernised. They also include properties awaiting upgrading, disposal or demolition. The number of void properties is kept under review and work is ongoing to reduce the margin.

Armed Forces: Married People

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of those serving in the armed forces are married. [155795]

Derek Twigg: This information is no longer held centrally, following the phased implementation of the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system.

Marital category is held within the JPA system and this relates to entitlement to certain allowances based on marriage/civil partnership and liability for dependant children rather than the pure legal marital status of personnel.

To collect and collate marital status from units could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Army Board: Official Cars

Mr. Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of providing a car and driver to the *(a)* Chief of the General Staff, *(b)* Assistant Chief of the General Staff, *(c)* Adjutant General and *(d)* members of the Army Board in 2006. [128791]

Derek Twigg: The cost for providing a car and driver to members of the Army Board in 2006 was as follows:

		Cost (£)
Secretary of State	Not funded by MOD	—
Minister	Driver 1 x civilian	Salary range 12,000 to 24,000
(Armed Forces)	Car	5,475
Minister	Driver 1 x civilian	Salary range 12,000 to 24,000
(Defence Equipment and Support)	Car	5,796
Under-Secretary of State	Driver 1 x civilian	Salary range 12,000 to 24,000
	Car	4,803
Chief of the General Staff	Driver 1 x Sgt	Salary range 29,000 to 39,000
	Car	4,833
2nd Permanent Under-Secretary	Driver 1 x civilian	Salary range 12,000 to 24,000
	Car	4,833
Commander in Chief Land	Driver 1 x Sgt	Salary range 27,000 to 33,000
	1 x civilian	12,000 to 24,000
	Car	4,833
	Car	800
Adjutant General	Driver 1 x Sgt	Salary range 27,000 to 33,000
	Car	3,281
Assistant Chief of the General Staff	Driver 1 x Cpl	Salary range 24,000 to 30,000
	Car	6,745
Quartermaster General	Driver 1 x Cpl	Salary range 24,000 to 30,000
	Car	4,344

		Cost (£)
Master General of the Ordnance	Driver 1 x Cpl	Salary range 24,000 to 30,000
	Car	4,471
GOC NI	Driver 1 x Cpl	Salary range 24,000 to 30,000
	Car	[1]—

[1] Vehicles used by GOC NI are available for use by others within the Headquarters. Ownership and maintenance costs are not held centrally nor are they directly attributable to the GOC.

The salary scales for the civilian drivers employed do not include London weighting or overtime. Vehicle costs are contract/hire costs or maintenance costs as appropriate. Information on fuel usage is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Defence: Exports

Mr. Benyon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department will still have support for defence exports as part of its remit following the changes to departmental responsibilities in this area announced on 25 July 2007. [160094]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Yes. When the change of departmental responsibilities for defence trade promotion is put in to effect, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) will remain committed to supporting defence exports. A service level agreement setting out the future relationship between the MOD and UK Trade and Investment on defence trade promotion is currently being drafted. In addition, MOD will remain responsible for exports made under Government-to-Government agreements.

Defence: Procurement

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total cost is of procuring one *(a)* SA-80 rifle, *(b)* Type-45 Destroyer, *(c)* Astute Class Submarine, *(d)* Typhoon aircraft, *(e)* Chinook helicopter and *(f)* Apache helicopter. [157032]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Departments: Civil Proceedings

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civil law suits have been brought against his Department based either wholly or partially on grounds provided by the Human Rights Act 1998; how many were settled out of court, before a court judgment was delivered; and how much such settlements cost the public purse since 1998. [160702]

Derek Twigg: It has not proved possible to respond to the right hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Departments: Contracts

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence under what circumstances his Department awards contracts to outside organisations without undertaking a tendering process. [154032]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Department's commercial policy and procedures require a tendering process to be undertaken whenever it is proposed to award contracts to outside organisations on either a competitive or non-competitive (i.e. single source) basis.

Departments: Lisbon Agenda

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what policies his Department has adopted to assist the United Kingdom's fulfilment of the Lisbon Agenda criteria. [155832]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Government fully support the aims of the Lisbon Strategy for Growth and Jobs. Reforms across EU member states consistent with the Strategy to boost productivity and skills, expanding participation in the labour market and increasing social inclusion, are key parts of the response to the challenges and opportunities of globalisation.

In line with the aims of the Lisbon Strategy, the Government are pursuing a comprehensive programme of long-term structural reform to deliver strong and sustainable economic performance and employment growth. This is set out in the UK National Reform programme, progress against which the Government report on annually. The most recent progress report was published in September and is available in the Library of the House and on the website of HM Treasury.

Departments: Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any of his Department's special advisers have declared a conflict of interest. [160784]

Derek Twigg: Special advisers are appointed under terms and conditions set out in the Model Contract for Special Advisers, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Departments: Ministerial Responsibilities

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the Ministerial responsibilities are of each member of his ministerial team. [161528]

Derek Twigg: The Defence Minister's responsibilities are explained on the Cabinet Office website at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ministerial_responsibilities.aspx

and MOD website at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/People/Ministers/.

Departments: Official Engagements

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his official engagements were between 9 September and 7 October. [157030]

Des Browne: Throughout the period from 9 September until 7 October, I had various meetings in London and Scotland, including with ministerial colleagues and officials from the MOD and Scotland Office. On 12 September, I hosted a seminar on conflict resolution at Glasgow university. On 13 September, I visited HQ 52 Brigade in

Edinburgh prior to their deployment to Afghanistan. On 18 September, I hosted the Commander Multi-national forces Iraq (General Petraeus) and the US Ambassador to Iraq (Ambassador Crocker) in London for talks. On 19 September I met the US Ambassador to Afghanistan (Ambassador Woods) to discuss the NATO-led mission in Afghanistan and, later that day, also met the Canadian Defence Minister for bilateral discussions, including on our joint commitment to Afghanistan. On 20 September, I attended the opening of the new BBC building in Glasgow and met the Director General of the BBC for discussions. On 28 and 29 September, I attended a meeting of EU Defence Ministers to discuss a range of issues, including Kosovo and Afghanistan.

Departments: Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions he has visited each region in an official capacity in the last 12 months. [158918]

Des Browne: The number of visits to the regions by Defence Ministers between 1 October 2006 and 19 October 2007 are shown in the following table:

	Secretary of State	*Minister for the Armed Forces*	*Minister for Defence Equipment and Support*	*Under-Secretary of State*
South East	3	13	4	17
London	6	7	3	14
South West	2	9	16	9
East of England	1	2	1	5
West Midlands	2	4	2	13
East Midlands	0	2	0	4
Yorkshire and the Humber	0	2	0	3
North West	0	0	3	7
North East	0	0	1	1

Departments: Public Expenditure

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the additional £2.7 billion funding for defence programmes to 2010-11 announced at page 231, Annex D8 of the Comprehensive Spending Review, Cm 7227, is earmarked for the progress work on the renewal of *(a)* the Trident nuclear launch platform and *(b)* sustaining the capabilities of AWE Aldermaston nuclear warhead design and development work. [160091]

Des Browne *[holding answer 24 October 2007]:* Of the additional funding made available to the Ministry of Defence in the comprehensive spending review, some £800 million is currently planned for maintaining the United Kingdom's deterrent capability beyond the life of the current system, as set out in the December 2006 White Paper, "The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6994) and endorsed by Parliament on 14 March 2007. Some £200 million is for the programme of investment in sustaining capabilities at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE), both to ensure we can maintain the existing warhead for as long as necessary and to enable us to develop a replacement warhead should that be required.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) on what dates his Department breached its *(a)* resource, *(b)* near-cash, *(c)* administration and *(d)* capital budgets since 2001; what the value of each breach was; and what the reason was for each breach; [160314]

(2) in which financial years since 2001 his Department's outturn for its capital budget at the end of the year was less than planned at the beginning of the year; and what the *(a)* value and *(b)* reason for the underspend was in each case. [160333]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 15 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 763W, to the right hon. Member for West Dorset (Mr. Letwin). I have placed a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Departments: Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many citizens' juries were arranged for *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's agencies in each year since 1997; which organisations were commissioned to conduct each citizens' jury; and what the cost was of each. [160017]

Derek Twigg: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departments: Standards

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of his Department's public service agreement targets *(a)* take and *(b)* do not take account of rural proofing. [159641]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence's current public service agreement targets set out in the 2004 spending review, and the future targets set out in the 2007 comprehensive spending review cover provision of military capability and delivery of the Government's international defence and security objectives. As such they raise no issues relevant to rural proofing. Strategic environmental assessments are undertaken on Defence Estates programmes and plans, and sustainability appraisals are undertaken on projects. These assessments consider the social, economic

and environmental effects on the rural and urban communities within which we operate and ensure that due consideration is given to the likely impact of new initiatives on rural communities.

Future Large Aircraft

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the progress being made with the A400M. [160632]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The first complete A400M airframe is now installed in the EADS static test facility at Getafe, near Madrid, in Spain. The first development aircraft is in production at the final assembly line in Seville (Spain). However, the company has recently announced a delay to the contracted delivery schedule of six months to one year. The OCCAR executive administration, on behalf of the A400M partner nations will closely monitor progress under the contract against milestones and regular updates from the company.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of Taliban commanders who have surrendered in Afghanistan as a result of *(a)* diplomatic and *(b)* military means. [161773]

Des Browne: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of Taliban members who surrendered then subsequently returned to anti-western forces. [161775]

Des Browne: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member in the time available before Prorogation.

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps have been taken by his Department to obtain a full record of the number of aeromedical evacuations and field hospital admissions in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan before 1 January 2006. [155721]

Derek Twigg: The Ministry of Defence is analysing records of aeromedical evacuations prior to January 2006 for both Afghanistan and Iraq, with a view to releasing validated data onto the Ministry of Defence website.

Data for field hospital admissions in Iraq prior to January 2006 is being assessed for validation and release.

We do not hold records centrally for all field hospital admissions prior to January 2006 for Afghanistan and gathering the data could be undertaken only at disproportionate cost.

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British soldiers have served in Iraq in the last three years. [158387]

Des Browne: Between January 2003 and January 2007, centrally held records indicate that around 134,000 UK personnel deployed to the Joint Operational Area for Operation TELIC. Centrally held records do not indicate how long each individual spent in theatre, and these figures will include those who were making short visits in addition to those on full deployments. In addition, there may be some double-counting of personnel who have deployed more than once over the period. More detailed information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much has been *(a)* allocated and *(b)* spent on adapting dwellings for UK armed services personnel disabled by injury sustained in Iraq and Afghanistan in each year since March 2003. [161313]

Derek Twigg: Adapting accommodation for all injured and disabled service personnel is taken very seriously by the Department and funds are allocated and spent on adapting accommodation as required. These funds are expended by the local commanders and records of such spend are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the 10 most common injuries sustained in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan were in each year for which records are available; and how many casualties there were in each class of such injury. [161316]

Derek Twigg: It has not proved possible to respond to the hon. Member's question in the time available before Prorogation.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the unit production cost of the Joint Strike Fighter for financial years 2008-09 to 2024-25. [161529]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Unit production costs will be dependant on the number of aircraft being produced for all other partner nations and the delivery profile. The UK's procurement cost is likely to be up to £10 billion, depending on the number of aircraft required.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of procuring the *(a)* Super Hornet, *(b)* marinised Eurofighter and *(c)* Rafale in the event of a delay or cancellation of the Joint Strike Fighter programme. [161579]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 29 October 2007]:* In reaching the Joint Combat Aircraft selection decision, we assessed a number of options including Typhoon, Rafale and Super Hornet. Our judgment was, and remains, that the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) represents the most affordable solution to best meet United Kingdom requirements.

Military Aid: Floods

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will make a statement on the contribution of the armed forces during the recent flooding emergency; [154229]

(2) how many armed forces personnel were involved in the assistance of civil authorities during the recent flooding emergency. [154230]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Approximately 1,000 personnel drawn from the Royal Navy and Royal Marines, the Army and the Royal Air Force were involved during the recent flooding emergency in southern England, although only about 350 personnel were deployed at any one time. All personnel were deployed at the request of the Environment Agency, and undertook tasks such as search and rescue, construction of emergency flood defences and the distribution of bulk and bottled water. This armed forces deployment did not impact on either pre-deployment training or support to current operations.

No further comment would be appropriate at this time due to the ongoing independent inquiry which was announced by the Secretary of State for the Environment and Rural Affairs on 12 July 2007.

Military Attachés

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what changes in costs will be effected for his Department through the rebalancing of resources in the defence attaché network. [161566]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The measures announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Defence on 17 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 125WS, are likely to result in a decrease in the costs of the defence attaché network to the MOD to an estimated £33.8 million in 2008-09 from the total estimated cost of £38.3 million in 2007-08.

Nuclear Weapons: Expenditure

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the projected expenditure is in the period covered by the 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review on *(a)* the UK nuclear deterrent programme, including on the atomic weapons establishment and the future submarine programme, *(b)* the atomic weapons establishment and *(c)* the future submarine programme. [158335]

Des Browne: Projected expenditure on all aspects of the United Kingdom's independent nuclear deterrent—operation of and support to the current deterrent system, the costs of the atomic weapons establishment and expenditure on the programme to maintain the United Kingdom's nuclear deterrent capability beyond the life of the current system—over the next three years is expected to be:

	£ billion at outturn prices
2008-09	1.7
2009-10	2.0
2010-11	2.1

Expenditure at the Atomic Weapons Establishment is expected to be:

	£ million at outturn prices
2008-09	800
2009-10	900
2010-11	950

The estimated costs of the programme to maintain the United Kingdom's deterrent capability beyond the life of the current system, as set out in the December 2006 White Paper, 'The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent' (Cm 6994) and endorsed by Parliament on 14 March 2007, over the next three years are:

	£ million at outturn prices
2008-09	200
2009-10	300
2010-11	400

Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel have served in *(a)* Afghanistan since 2001 and *(b)* Iraq since 2003. [157035]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Between January 2003 and January 2007, centrally held records indicate that around 134,000 UK personnel deployed to the Joint Operational Area for Operation TELIC. Between October 2005 and January 2007, centrally held records indicate that around 24,500 UK personnel deployed to the Joint Operational Area for Operation HERRICK. Centrally held records do not indicate how long each individual spent in theatre, and these figures will include those who were making short visits in addition to those on full deployments. In addition, there may be some double-counting of personnel who have deployed more than once over the period. More detailed information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Reserve Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many volunteer reservists in each service were deployed on operations in each year since 1997. [157043]

Derek Twigg: The introduction of the Joint Pay Administration (JPA) system, which led to the closure of legacy systems, means that provision of the historical information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much *(a)* capital and *(b)* revenue expenditure was made on the Royal Fleet Auxiliary in

each of the last 10 years; what the forecast expenditure is in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement; [151522]

(2) when he will reply to question 151522 on Royal Fleet Auxiliary tabled by the hon. Member for Portsmouth South on 19 July. [158824]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: CinCFleet does not manage operating costs on the basis of individual ships or ship types, but on functions. The Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA) does not therefore have a distinct, identifiable budget, and figures for the running costs of RFA vessels are either not available or could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. However, for other categories of expenditure the following indicative figures are available for the years 2002-03 to 2007-08. We have defined Revenue Expenditure as Resource Expenditure under the current Treasury control framework.

£ million

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*[1]
Revenue expenditure						
RFA Manpower Pay and Allowances[2]	—	—	92	96	100	102
New Build	0.5	23	0.7	4	0.04	0.4
Maintenance of Ships[3]	53	83	29	28	45	43
RFA Vessels: Asset Depreciation and Cost of Capital[2]	—	—	65	67	89	119
Capital expenditure						
New Build	94	124	90	55	77	32
Maintenance of Ships[3]	8	13	47	40	21	46

[1] The figures for 2007-08 are forecasts based on expenditure to date.
[2] Figures for manpower pay and allowances and for asset depreciation and cost of capital before 2004-05 are not available centrally.
[3] From 2004-05, expenditure on refit work was recategorised from Revenue to Capital expenditure.

Spending plans for future years are kept under review as part of the departmental planning round. The RFA will continue to be funded at a level that ensures it is able to meet its operational and standing commitments.